

## CHAND BIBI

The Mughals thought that Ahmednagar would be easy to take as the heir was only a child and his regent, a woman. However, Akbar's mighty army was surprised when they ran into a determined band of defenders. In the battle for Ahmednagar, one woman stood between the Mughals and the fort that they sought to win – Chand Bibi. Such was the spirit of Chand Bibi that the mighty Mughals had to sue for peace.

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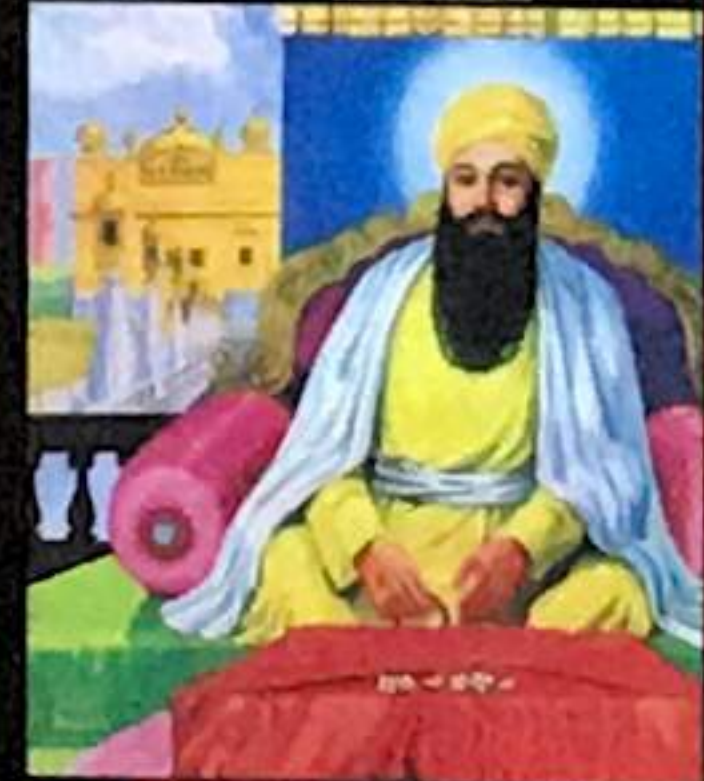
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BRAVEHEARTS



# CHAND BIBI

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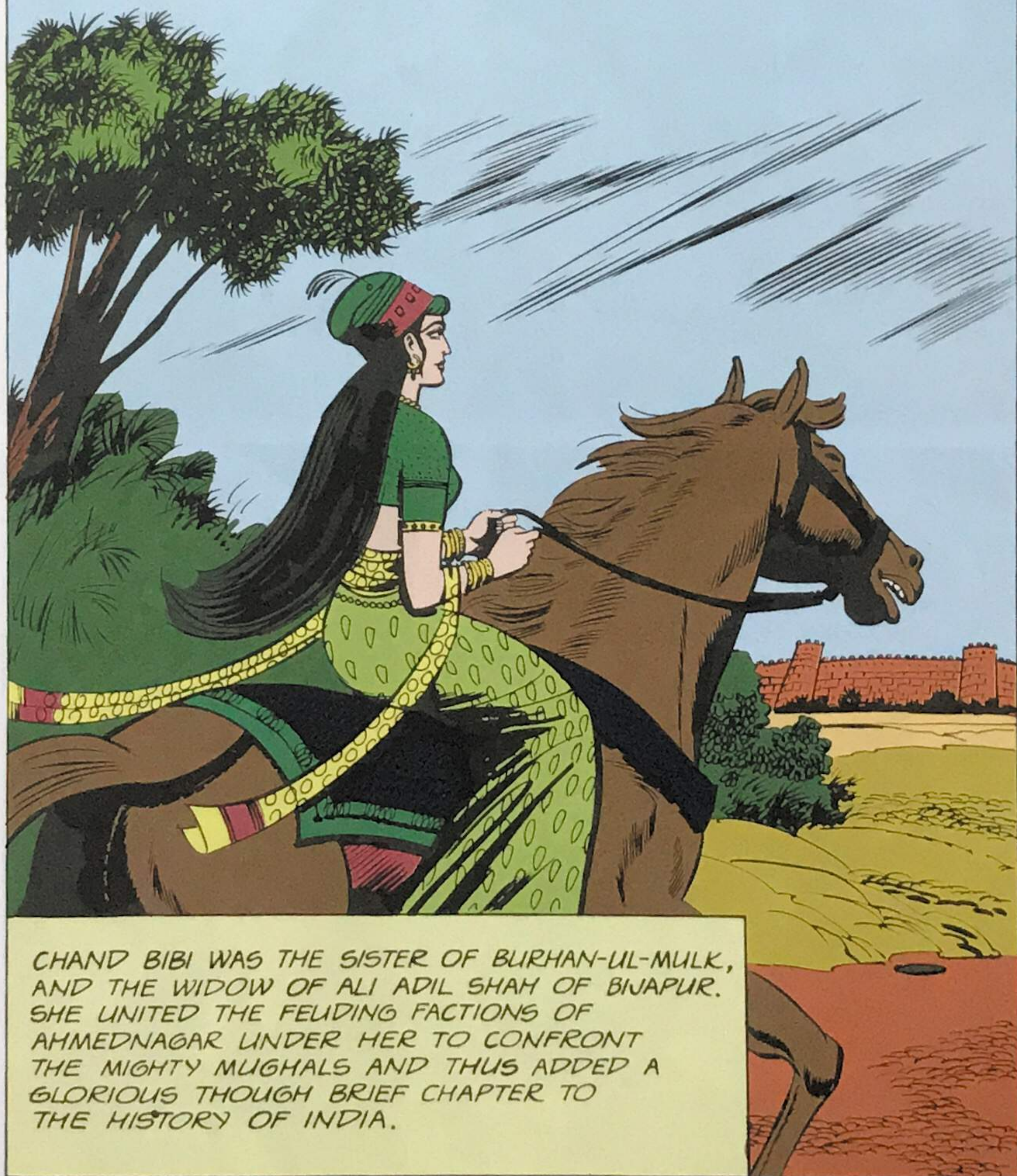
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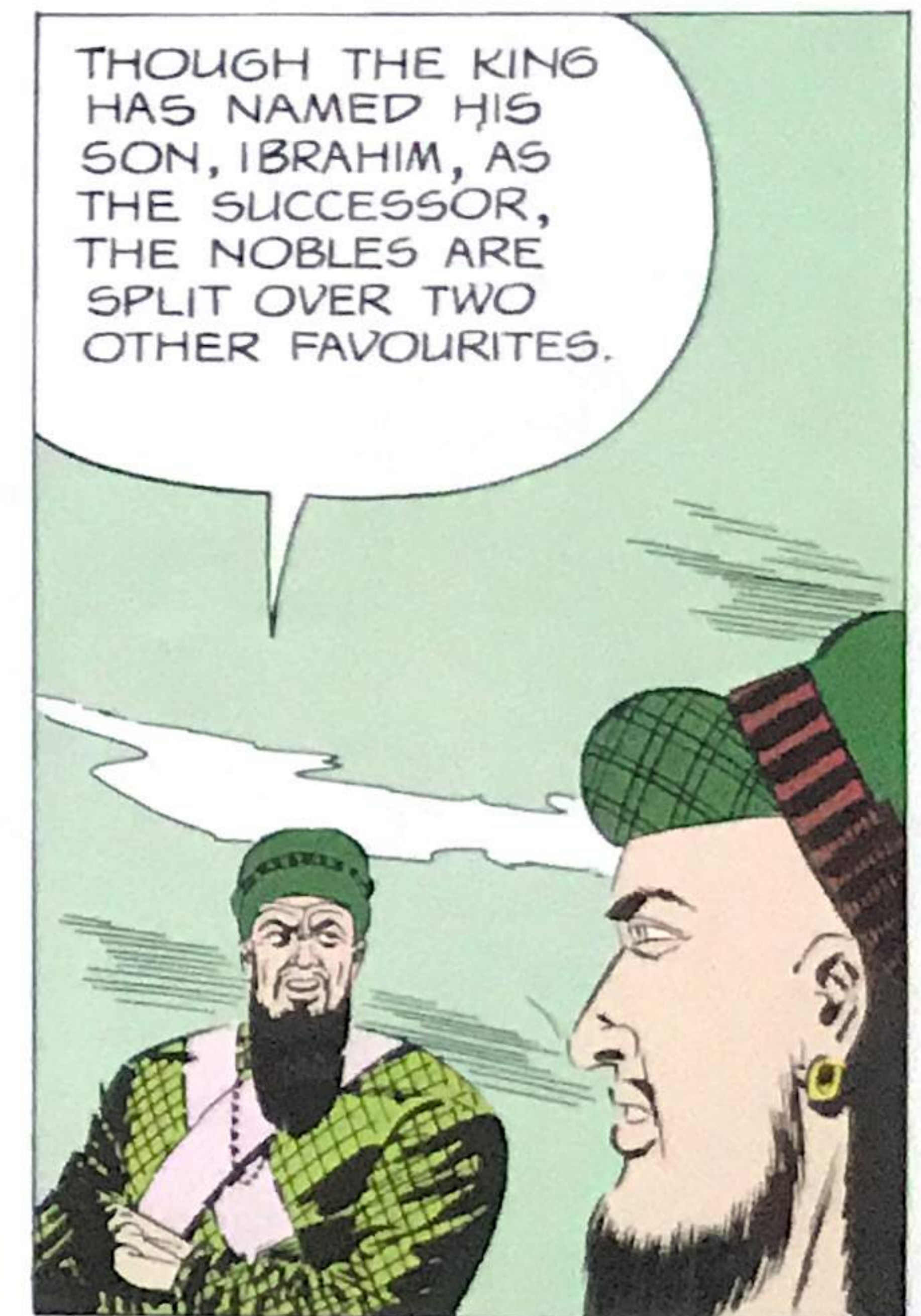
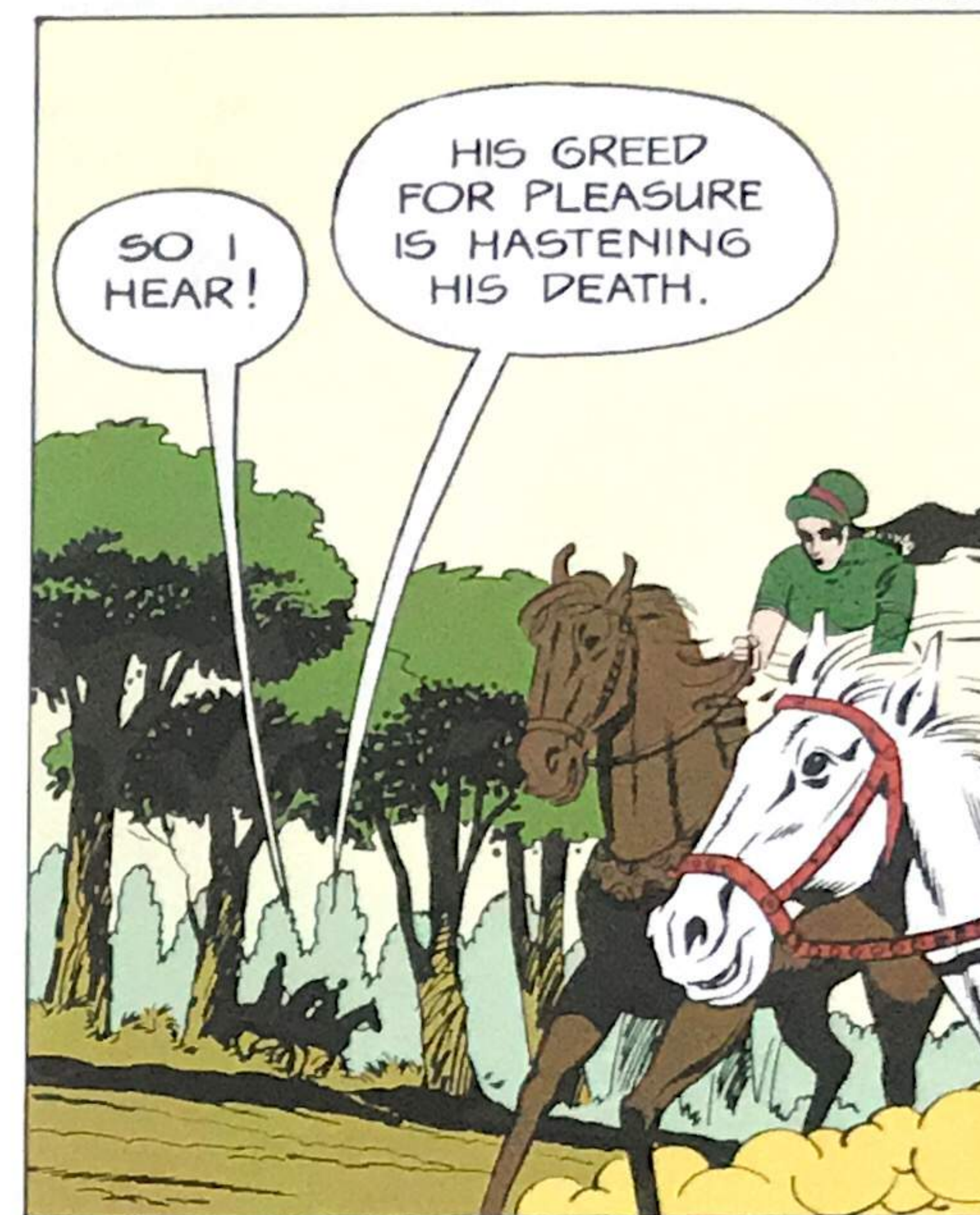
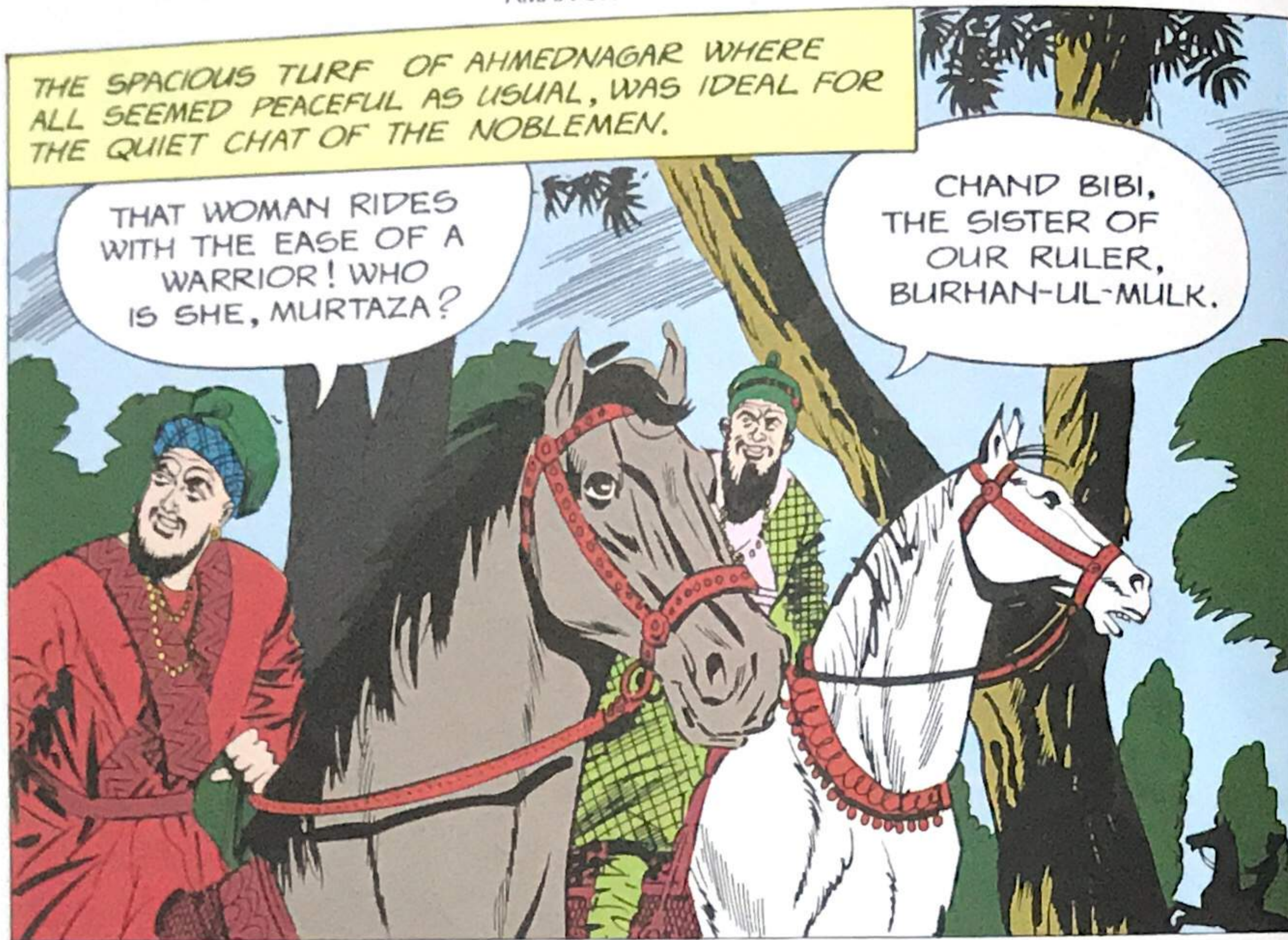


# CHAND BIBI



CHAND BIBI WAS THE SISTER OF BURHAN-UL-MULK, AND THE WIDOW OF ALI ADIL SHAH OF BIVAPUR. SHE UNITED THE FEUDING FACTIONS OF AHMEDNAGAR UNDER HER TO CONFRONT THE MIGHTY MUGHALS AND THUS ADDED A GLORIOUS THOUGH BRIEF CHAPTER TO THE HISTORY OF INDIA.

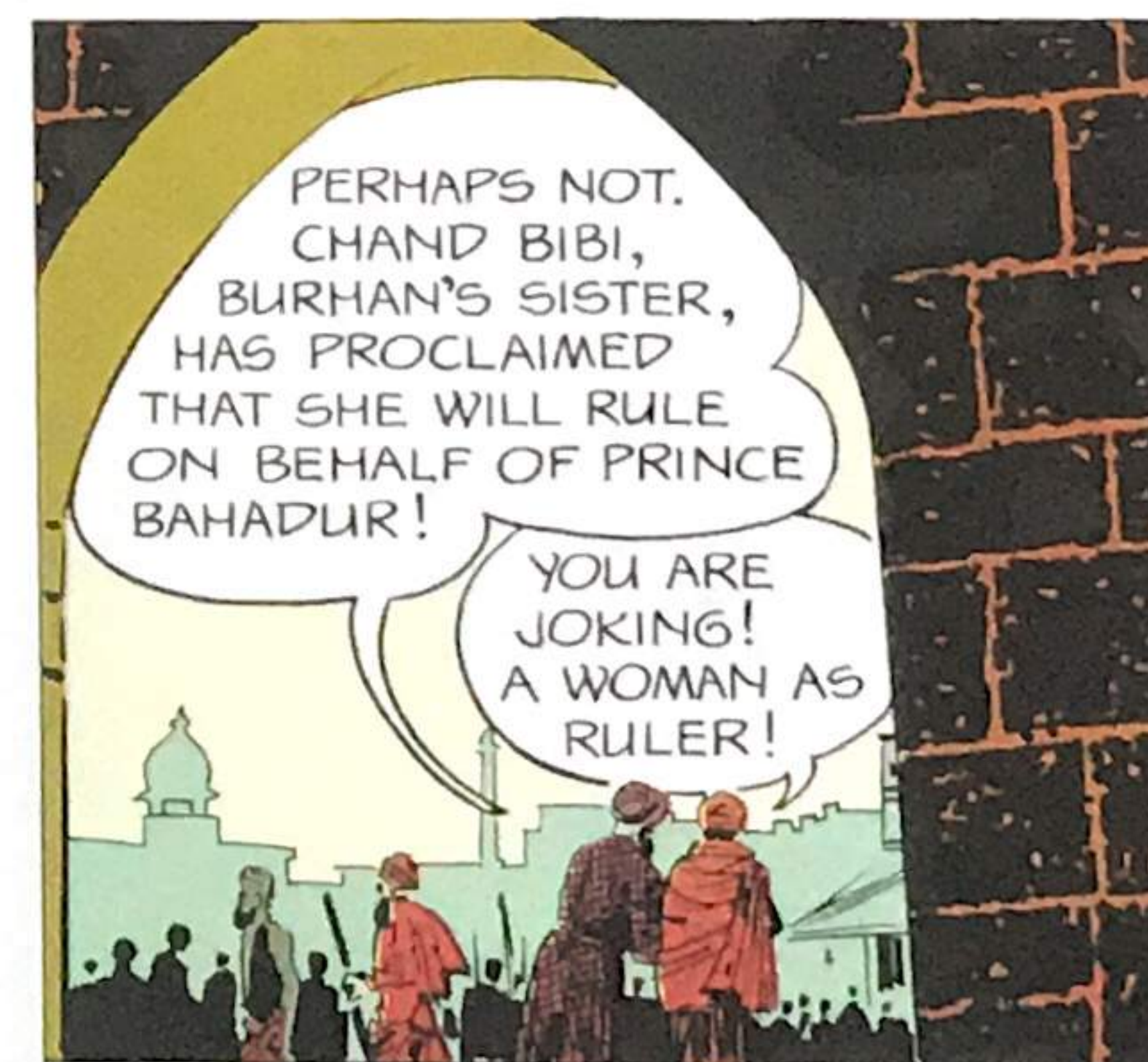
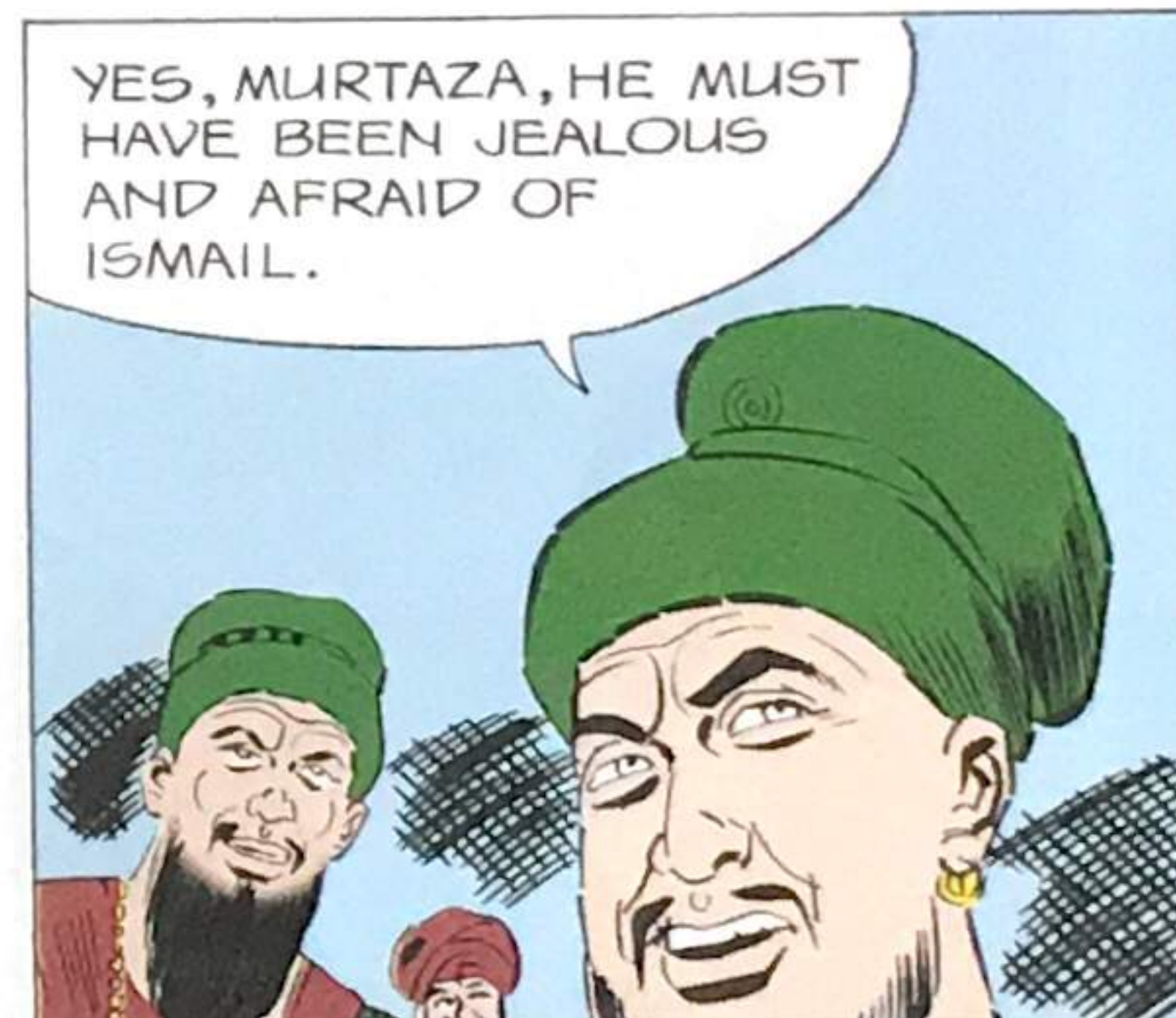
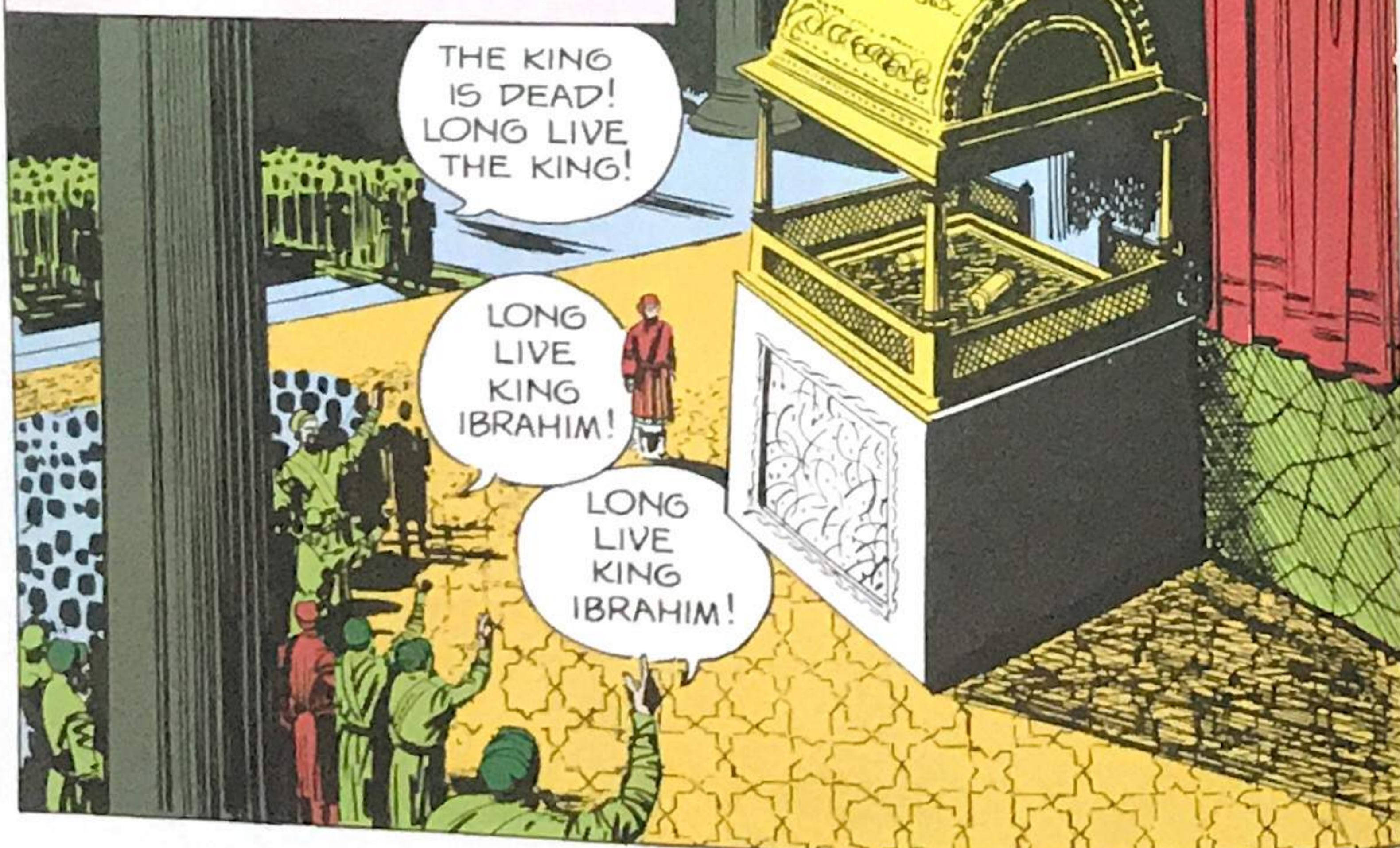








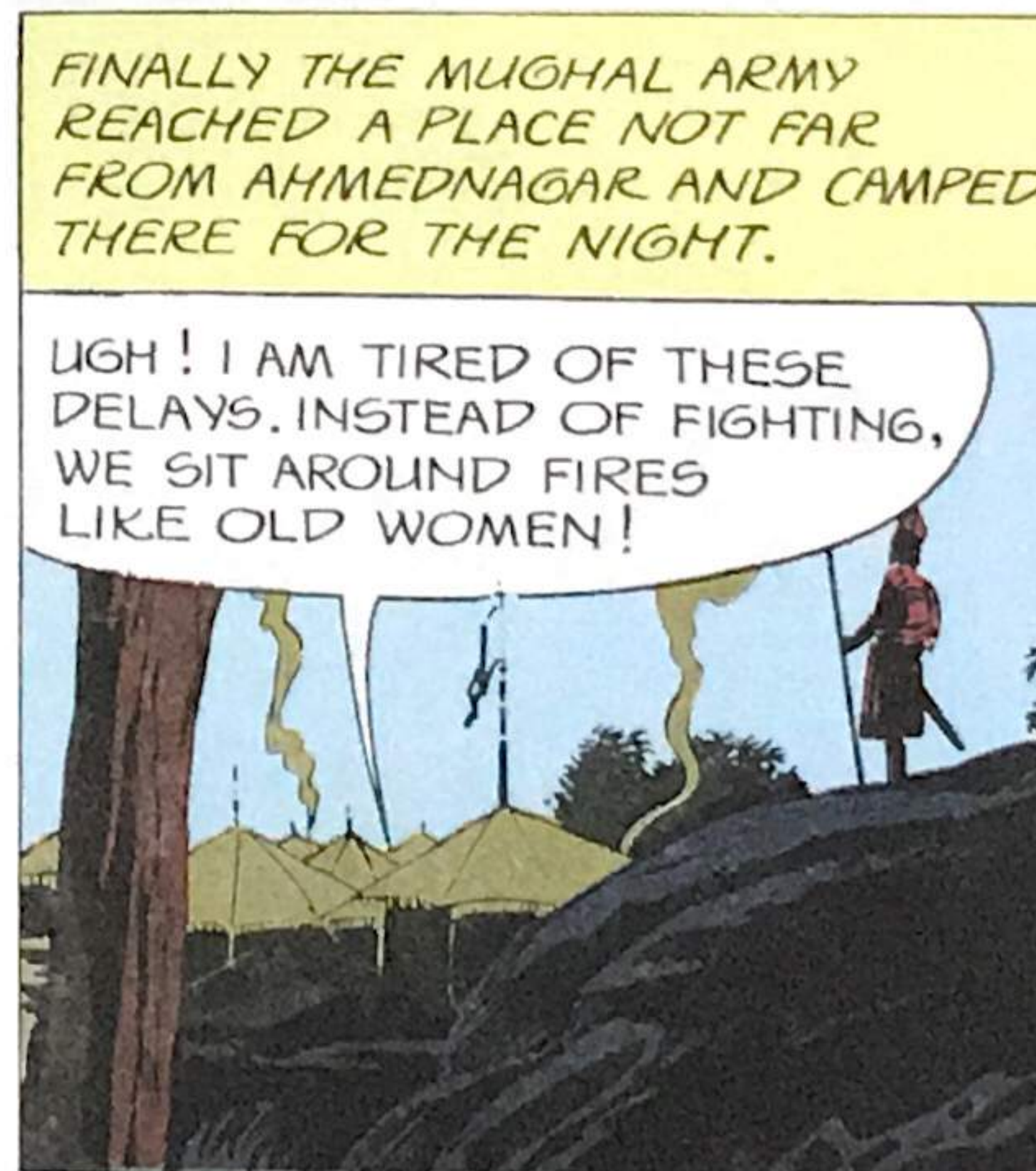
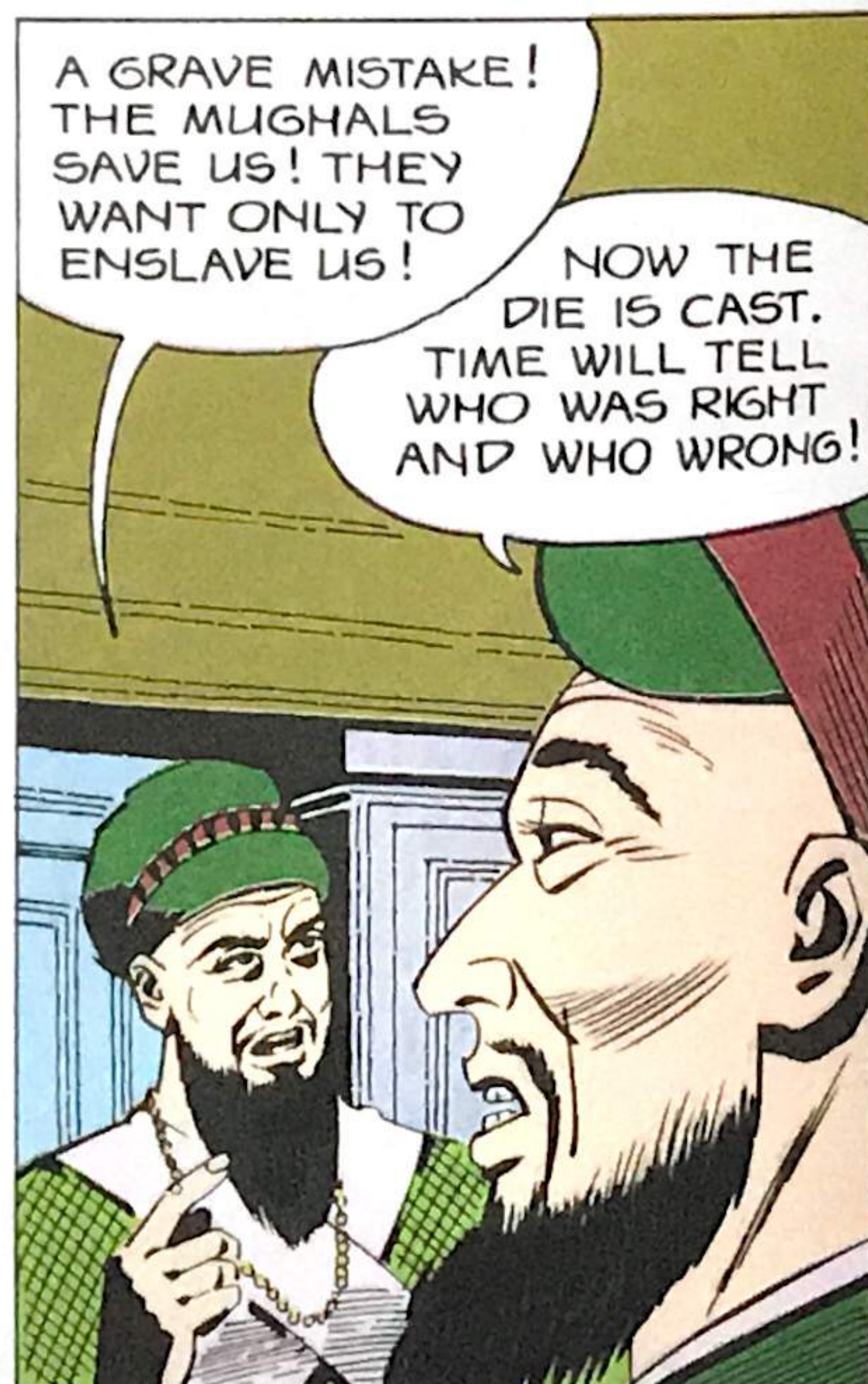
NOT LONG AFTER, THE AILING BURHAN-UL-MULK DIED, AND HIS SON, IBRAHIM WAS PROCLAIMED KING. AT THE PALACE HALL, LARGE NUMBERS OF NOBLEMEN WAITED AROUND THE EMPTY THRONE FOR THE NEW KING.









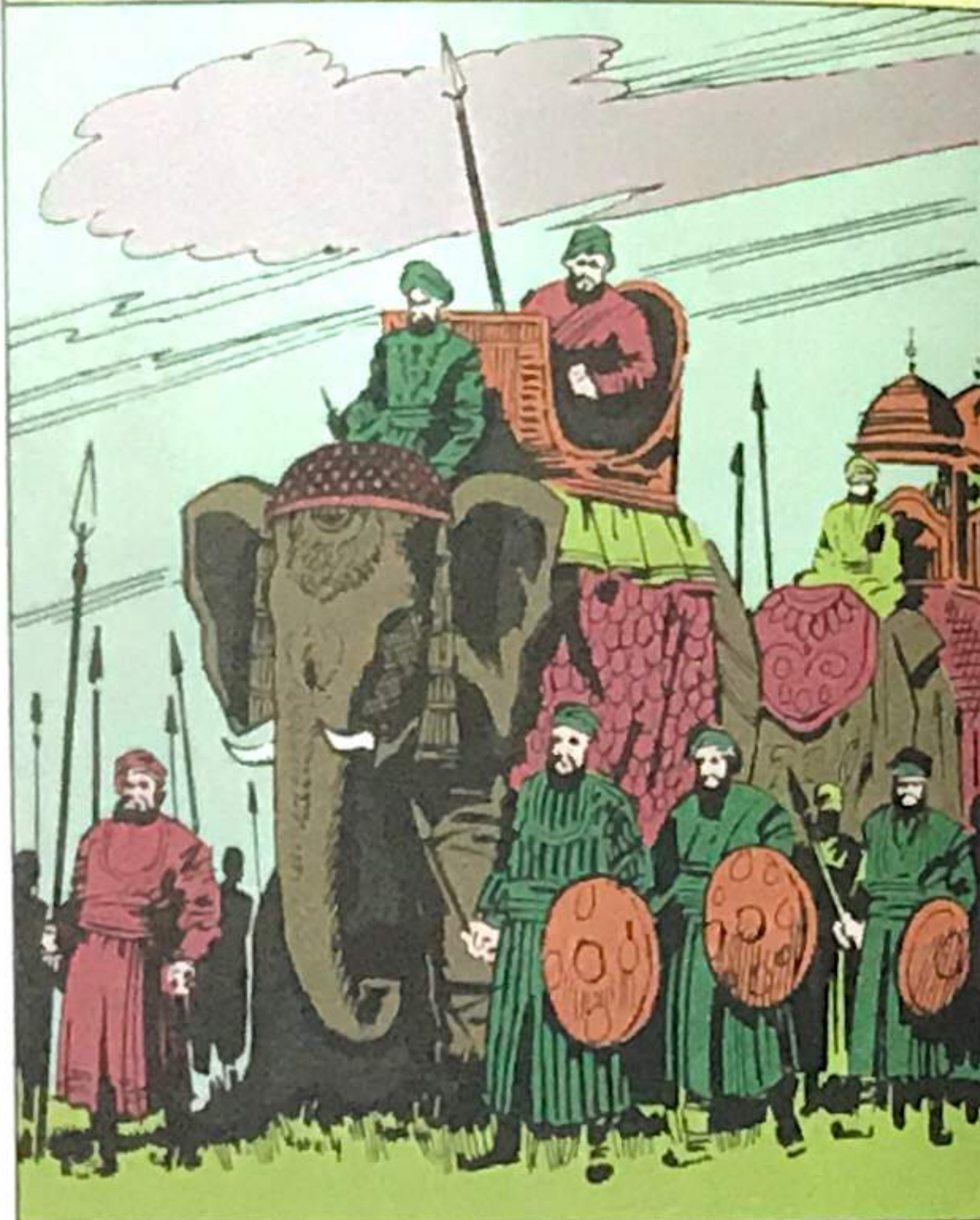




THE NEXT MORNING, THE MUGHAL ARMY ADVANCED, READY FOR BATTLE.



THE ELEPHANTS WERE COLOURFULLY CAPARISONED.



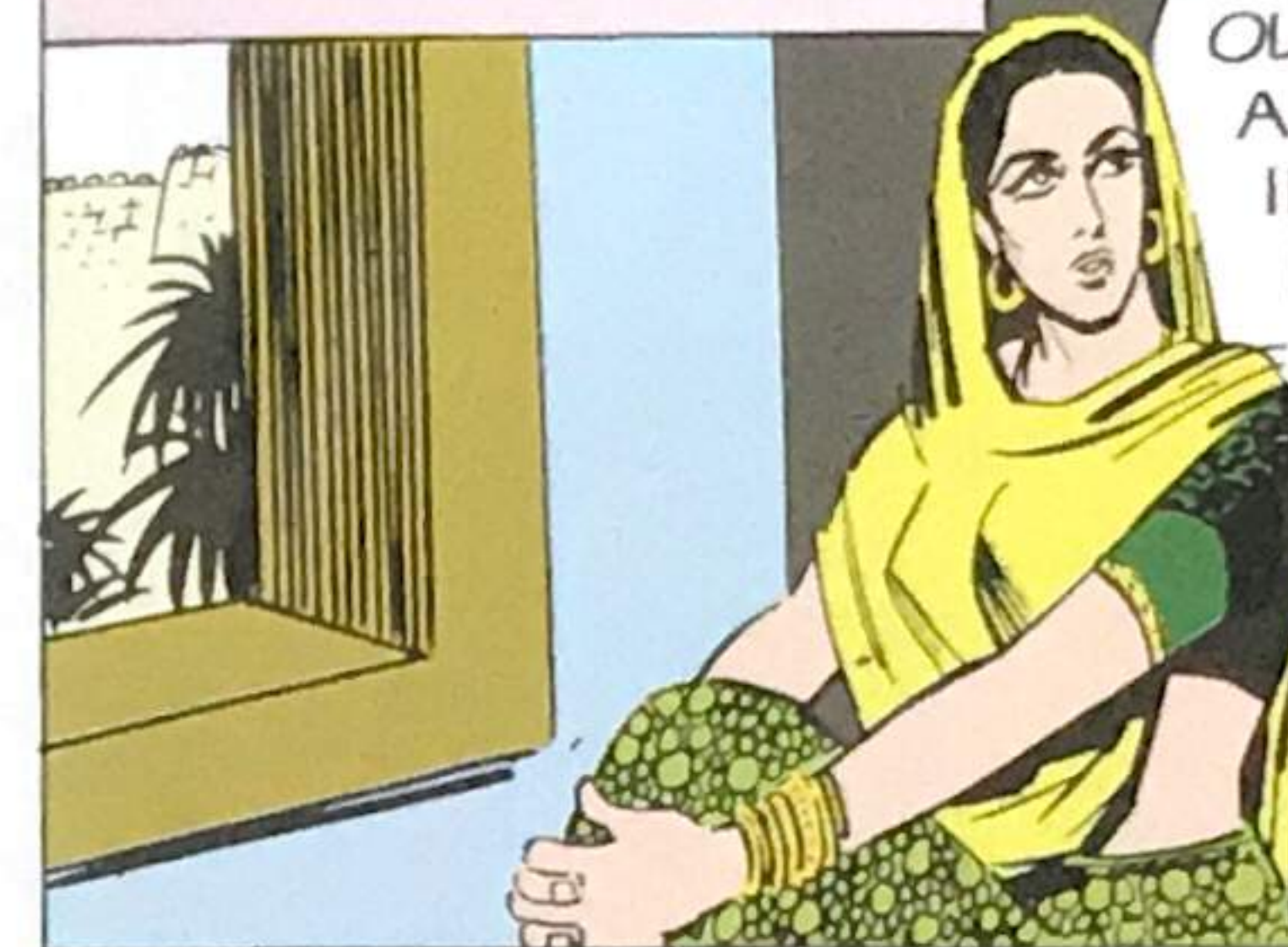
THE INFANTRY MARCHED ALONG SMARTLY.



THE CANNONS WERE OILED AND CLEANED.

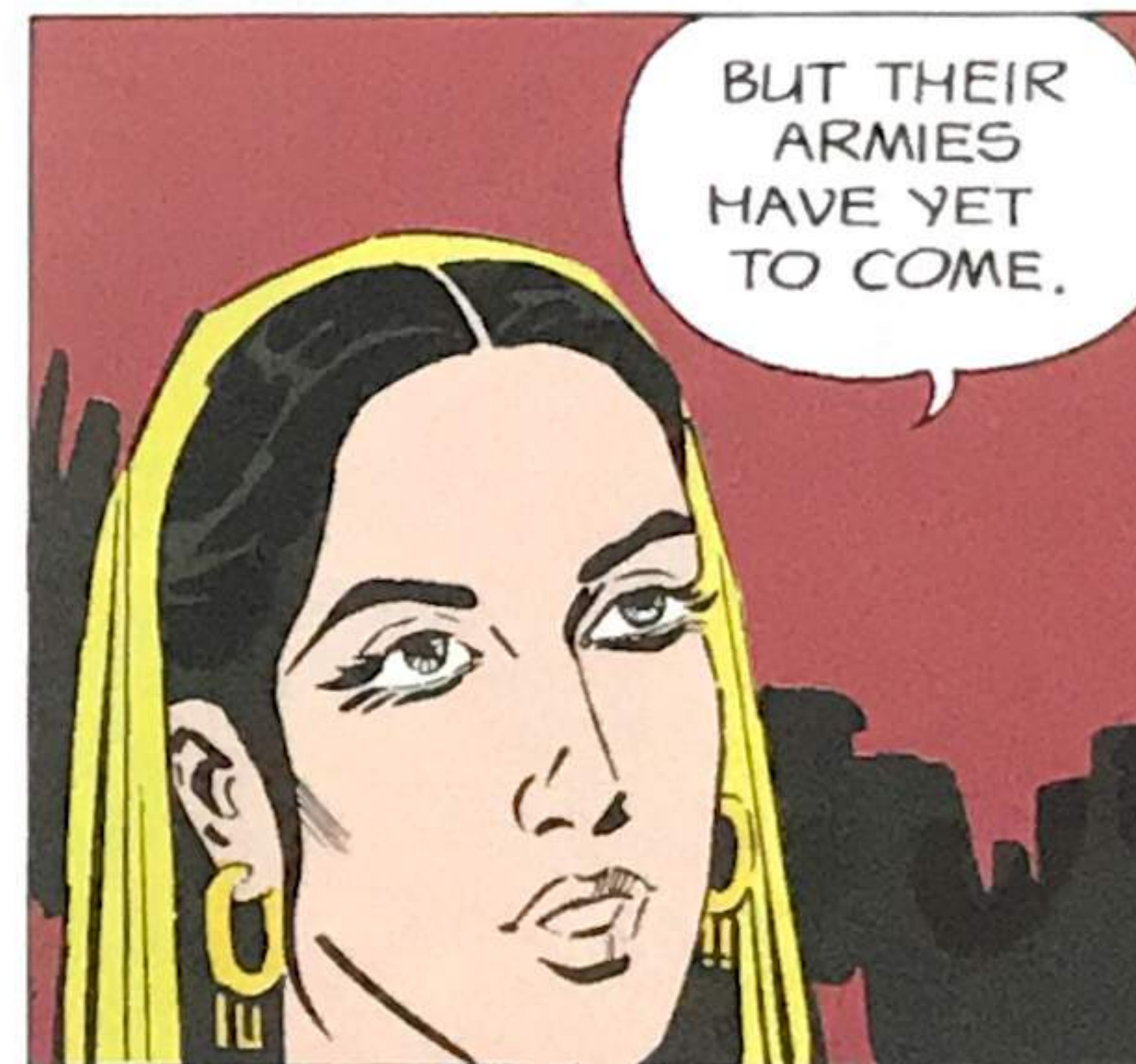


MEANWHILE, AT AHMEDNAGAR, THE MUGHAL APPROACH, SLOW BUT STEADY, WAS WATCHED WITH FEAR BY EVERYONE... BUT MOST OF ALL BY CHAND BIBI.



OUR SOLDIERS ARE STRONG IN COURAGE, BUT WEAK IN NUMBER.

LUCKILY, THE KINGS OF GOLKONDA AND BIJAPUR HAVE AGREED TO HELP US!



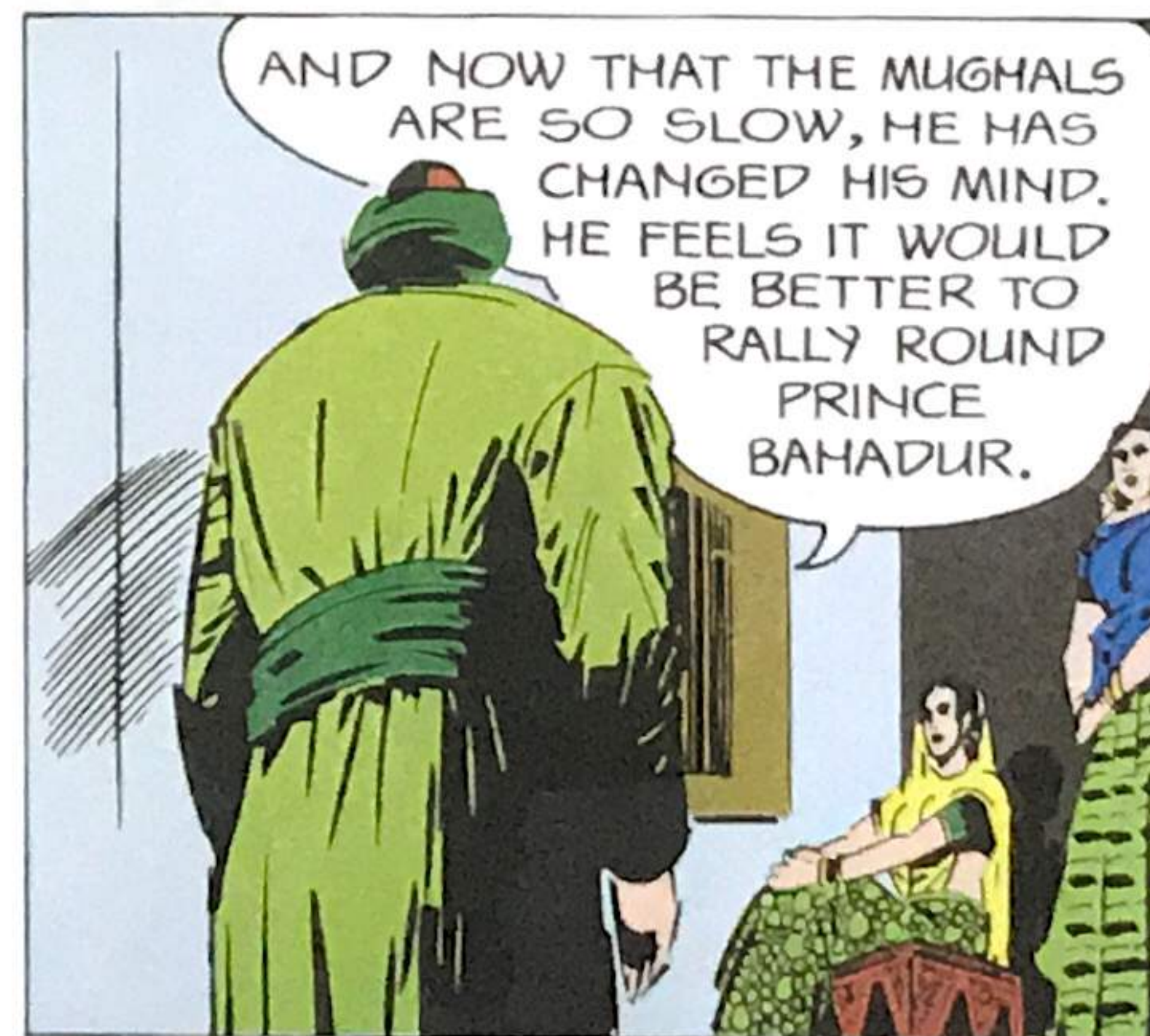
BUT THEIR ARMIES HAVE YET TO COME.

BY INVITING THE MUGHALS, MIYAN MANJHU HAS ADDED TO OUR TROUBLES.

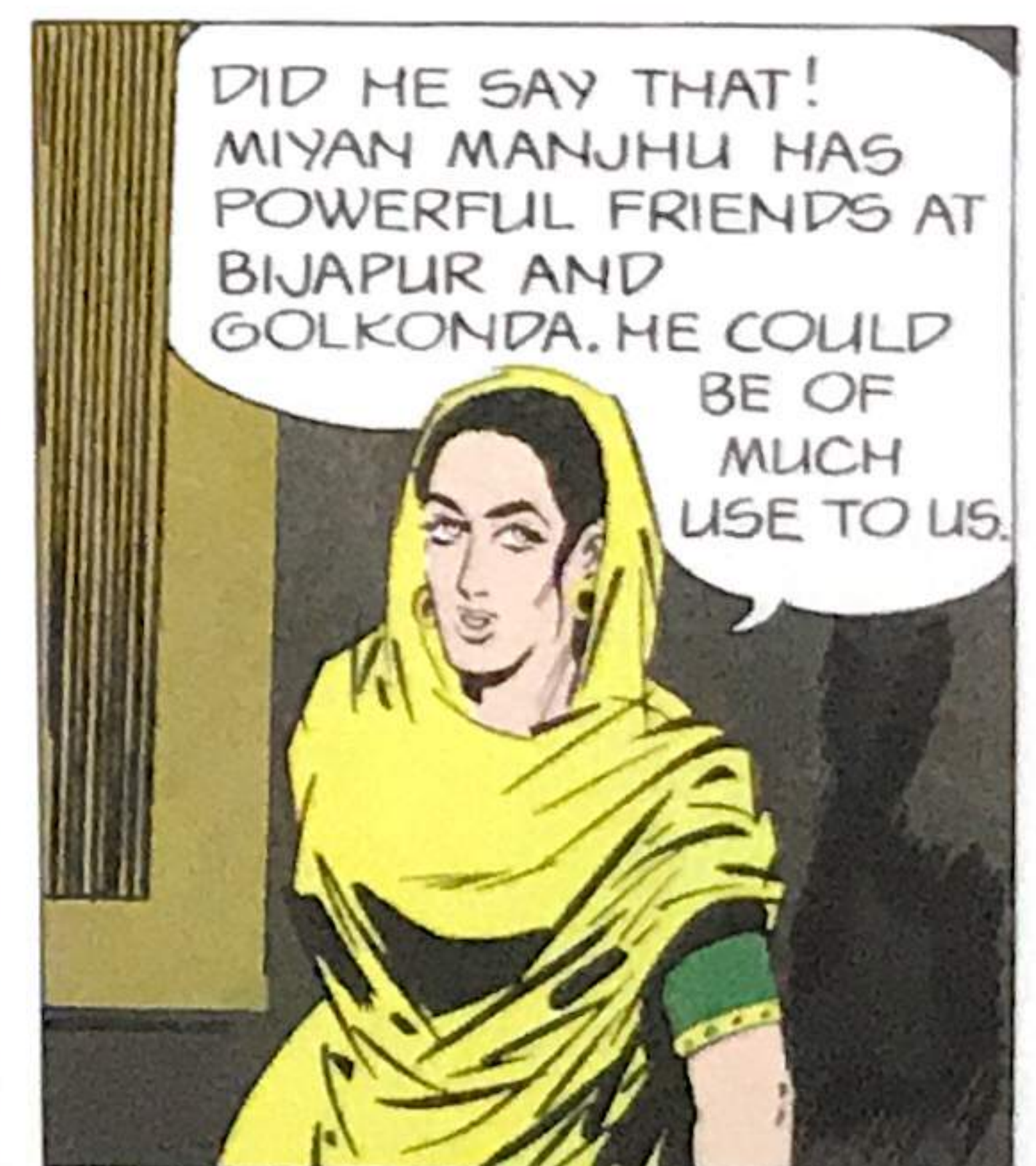


YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM IF HE LOST HIS HEAD! THINGS WERE VERY BAD HERE.

AND NOW THAT THE MUGHALS ARE SO SLOW, HE HAS CHANGED HIS MIND. HE FEELS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RALLY ROUND PRINCE BAHADUR.



DID HE SAY THAT! MIYAN MANJHU HAS POWERFUL FRIENDS AT BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA. HE COULD BE OF MUCH USE TO US.

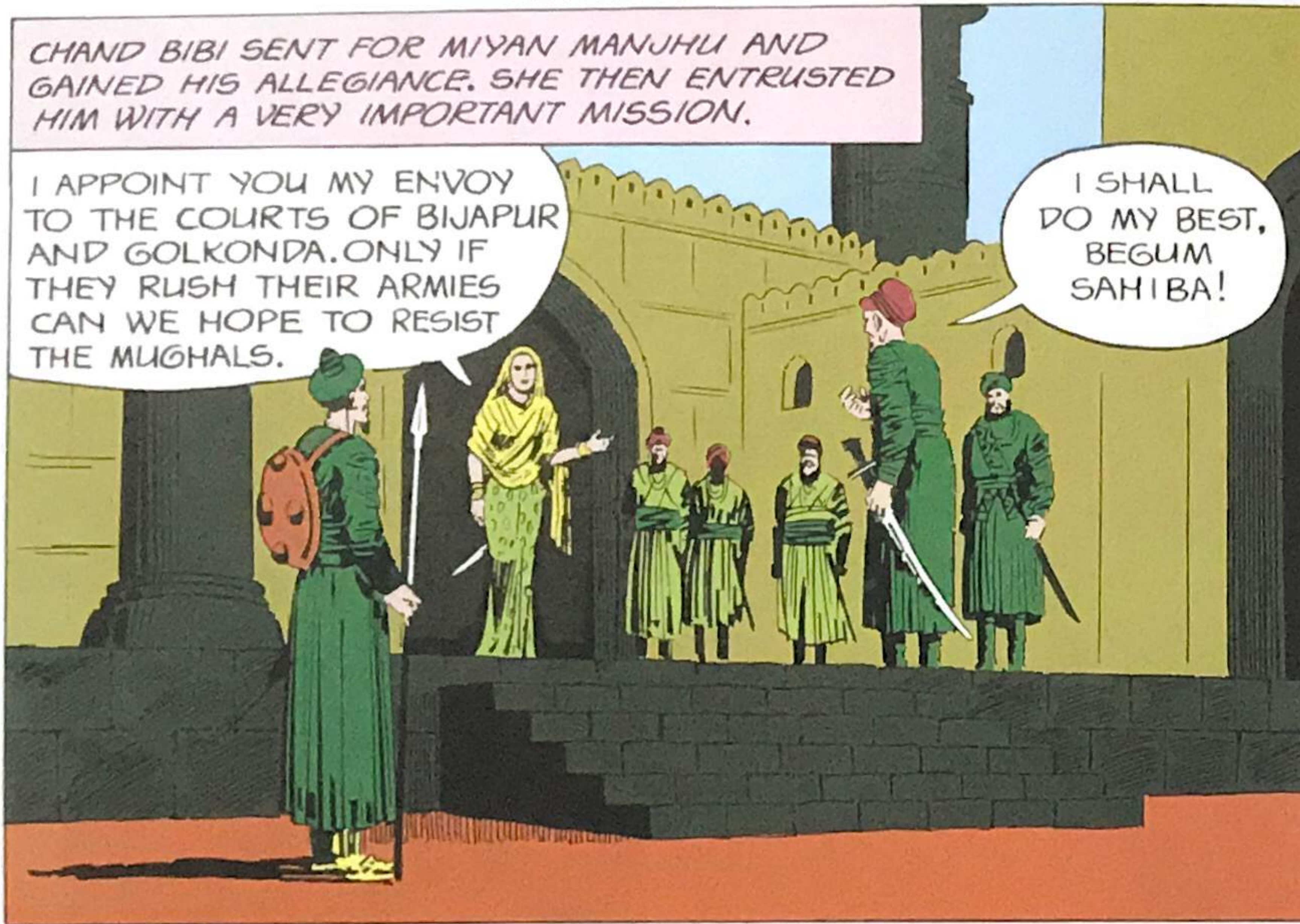




CHAND BIBI SENT FOR MIYAN MANJHU AND GAINED HIS ALLEGIANCE. SHE THEN ENTRUSTED HIM WITH A VERY IMPORTANT MISSION.

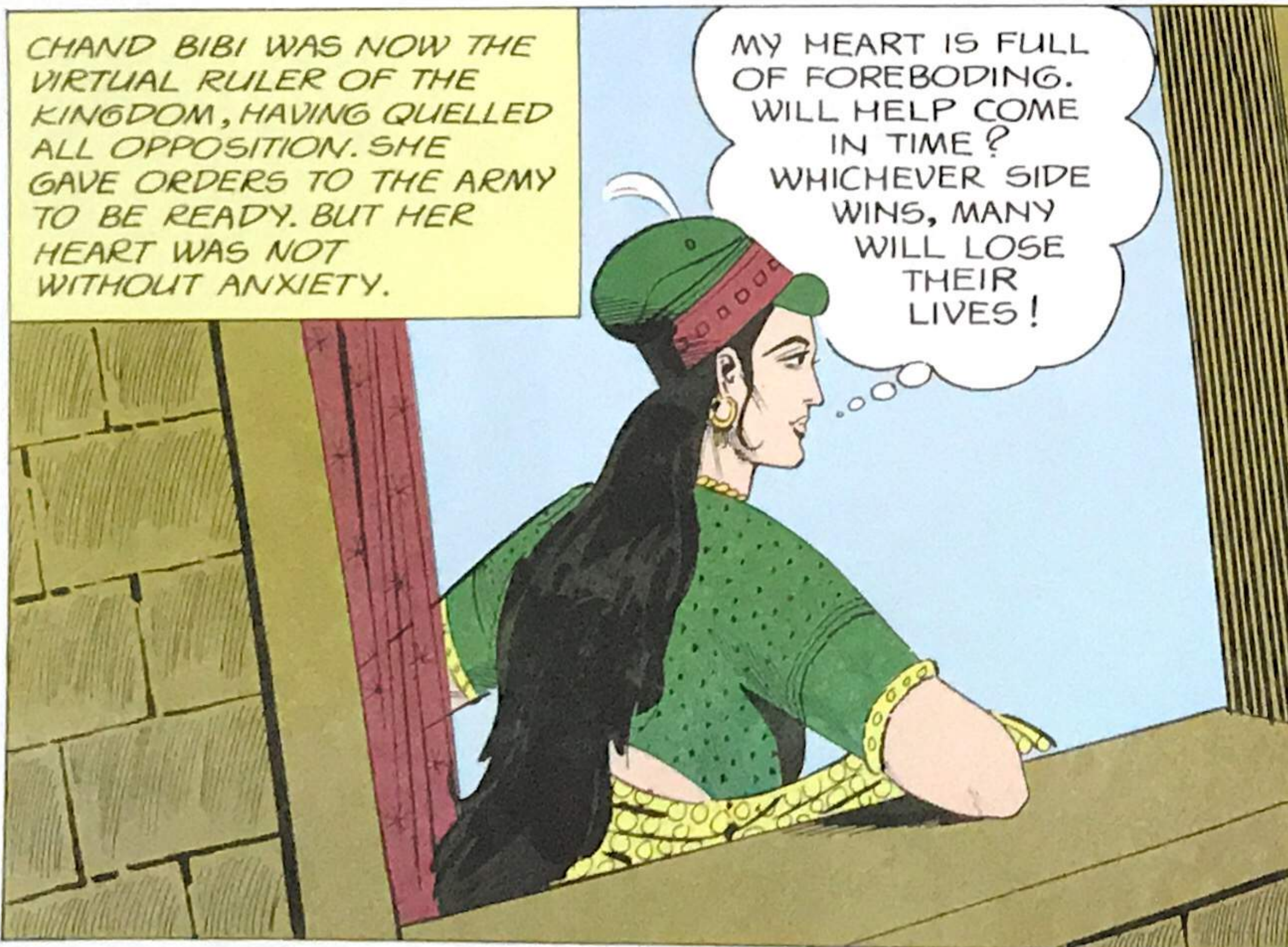
I APPOINT YOU MY ENVOY TO THE COURTS OF BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA. ONLY IF THEY RUSH THEIR ARMIES CAN WE HOPE TO RESIST THE MUGHALS.

I SHALL DO MY BEST, BEGUM SAHIBA!

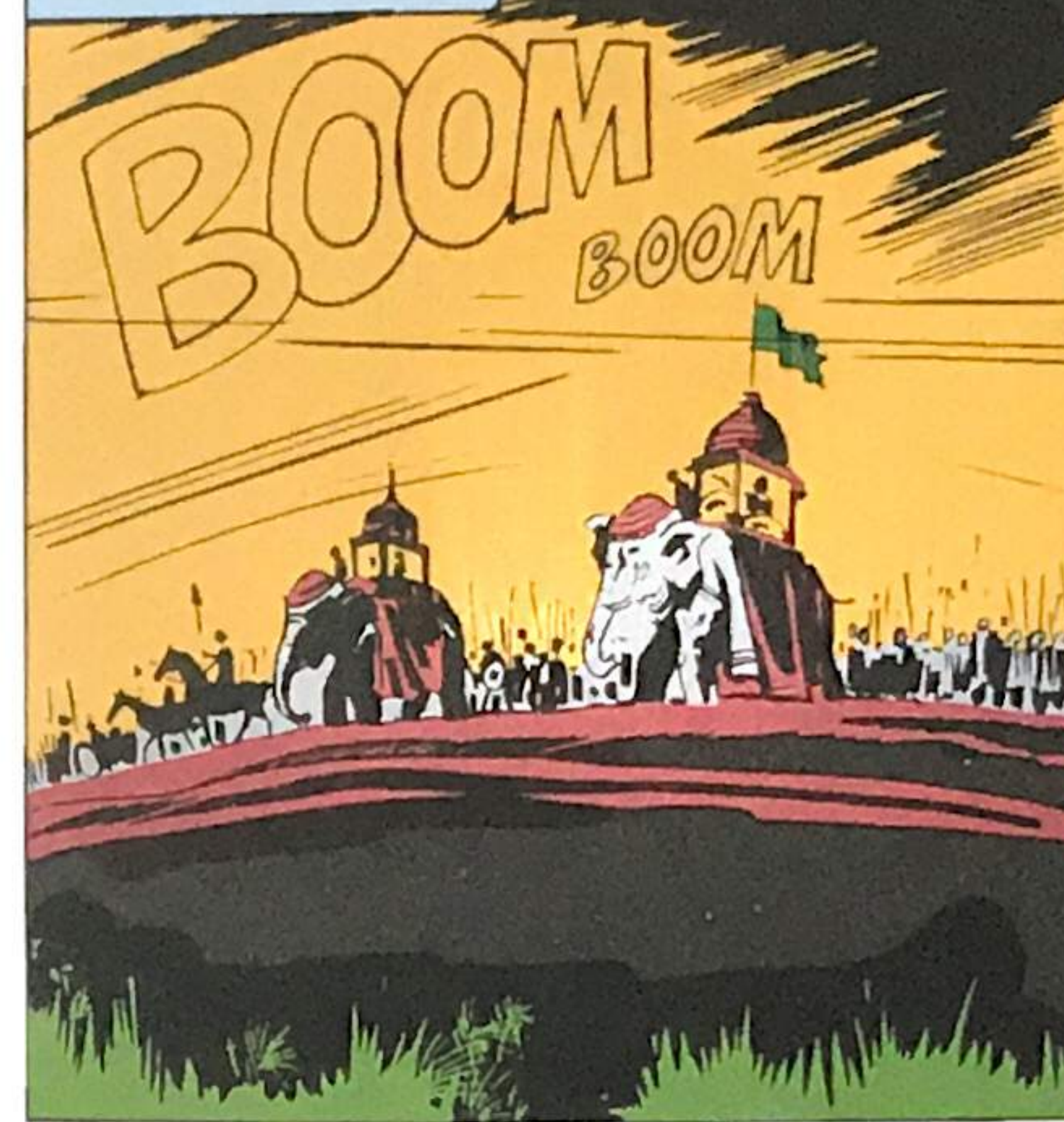


CHAND BIBI WAS NOW THE VIRTUAL RULER OF THE KINGDOM, HAVING QUELLED ALL OPPOSITION. SHE GAVE ORDERS TO THE ARMY TO BE READY. BUT HER HEART WAS NOT WITHOUT ANXIETY.

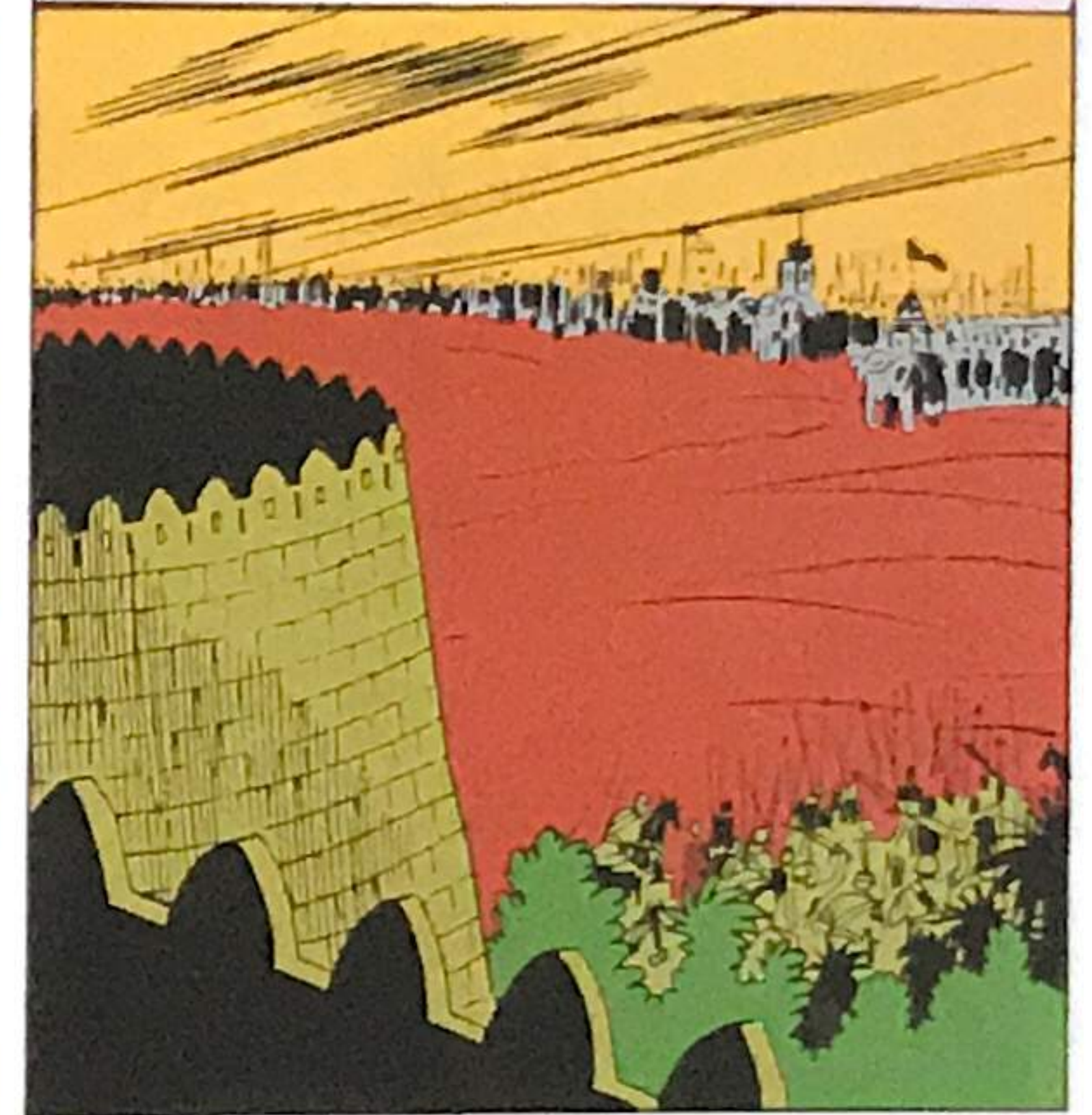
MY HEART IS FULL OF FOREBODING. WILL HELP COME IN TIME? WHICHEVER SIDE WINS, MANY WILL LOSE THEIR LIVES!



WHEN THE MUGHAL ARMY FINALLY ARRIVED, IT WAS GREETED BY A VOLLEY OF SHOTS FROM AHMEDNAGAR FORT. THE BATTLE HAD BEGUN!



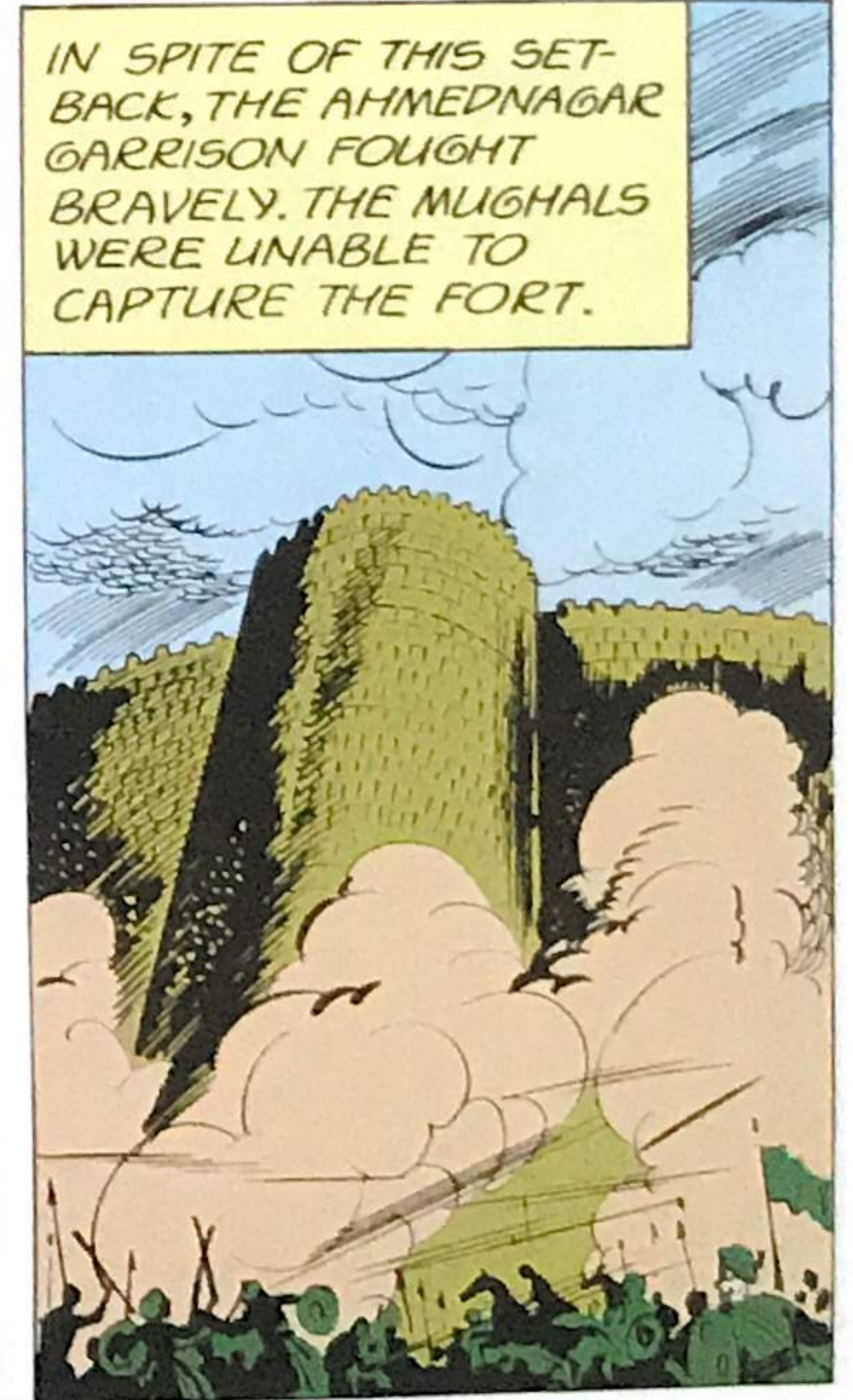
THE MUGHAL ARMY TRIED TO SURROUND THE FORT, BUT THEY COULD NOT. FROM WITHIN THE FORT A GENERAL CAME OUT AND ATTACKED THEM WHERE HE SAW A GAP.



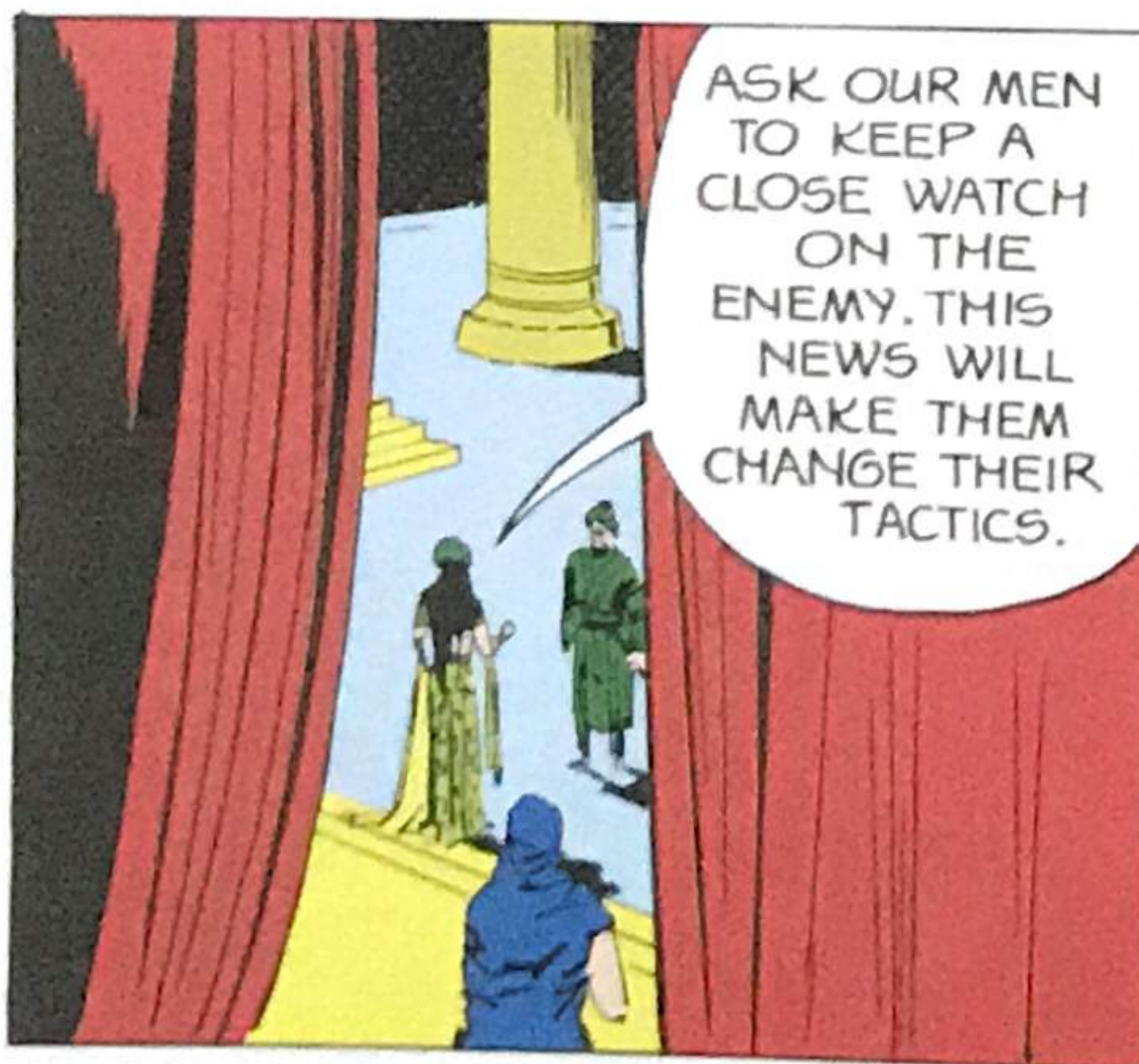
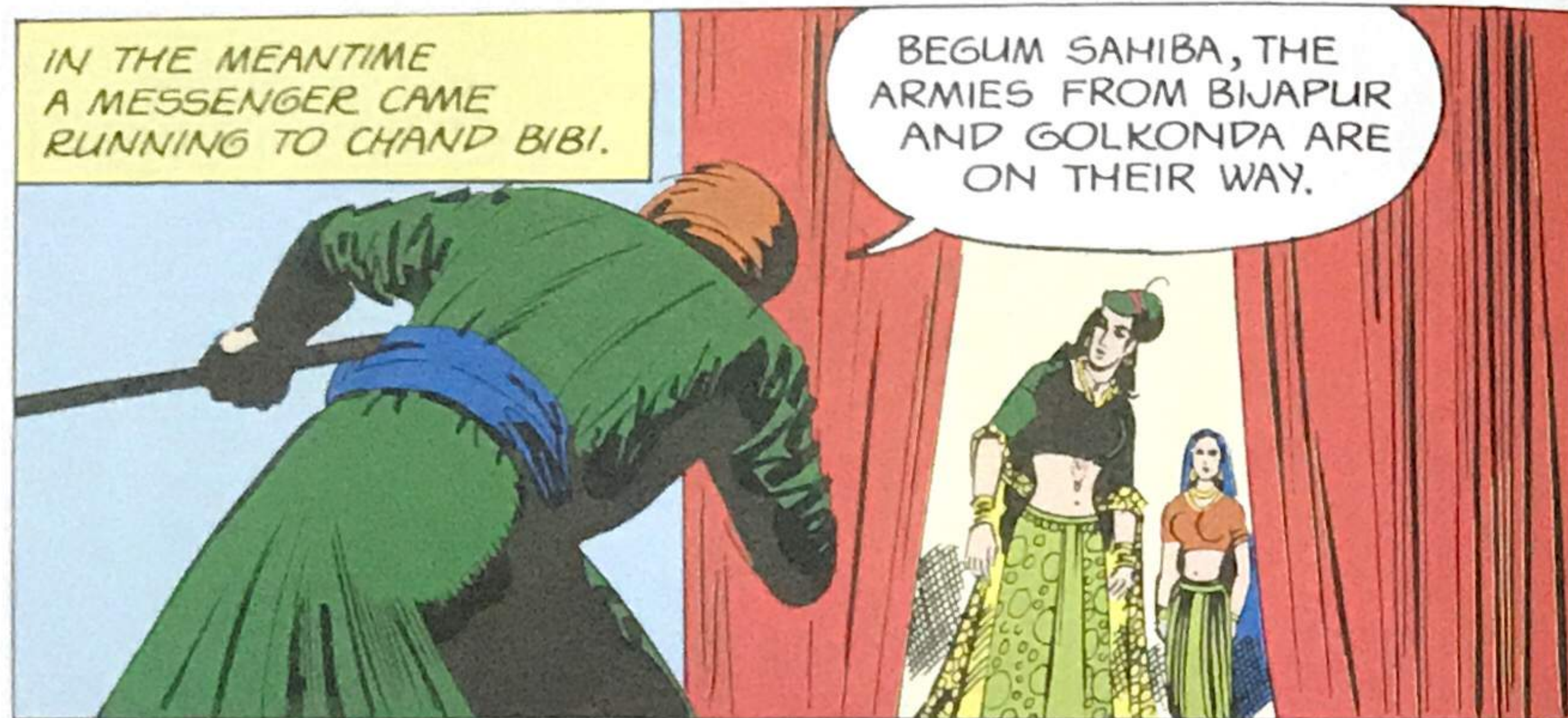
BUT HIS CONTINGENT WAS SLAUGHTERED BY THE MUGHALS.



IN SPITE OF THIS SET-BACK, THE AHMEDNAGAR GARRISON FOUGHT BRAVELY. THE MUGHALS WERE UNABLE TO CAPTURE THE FORT.









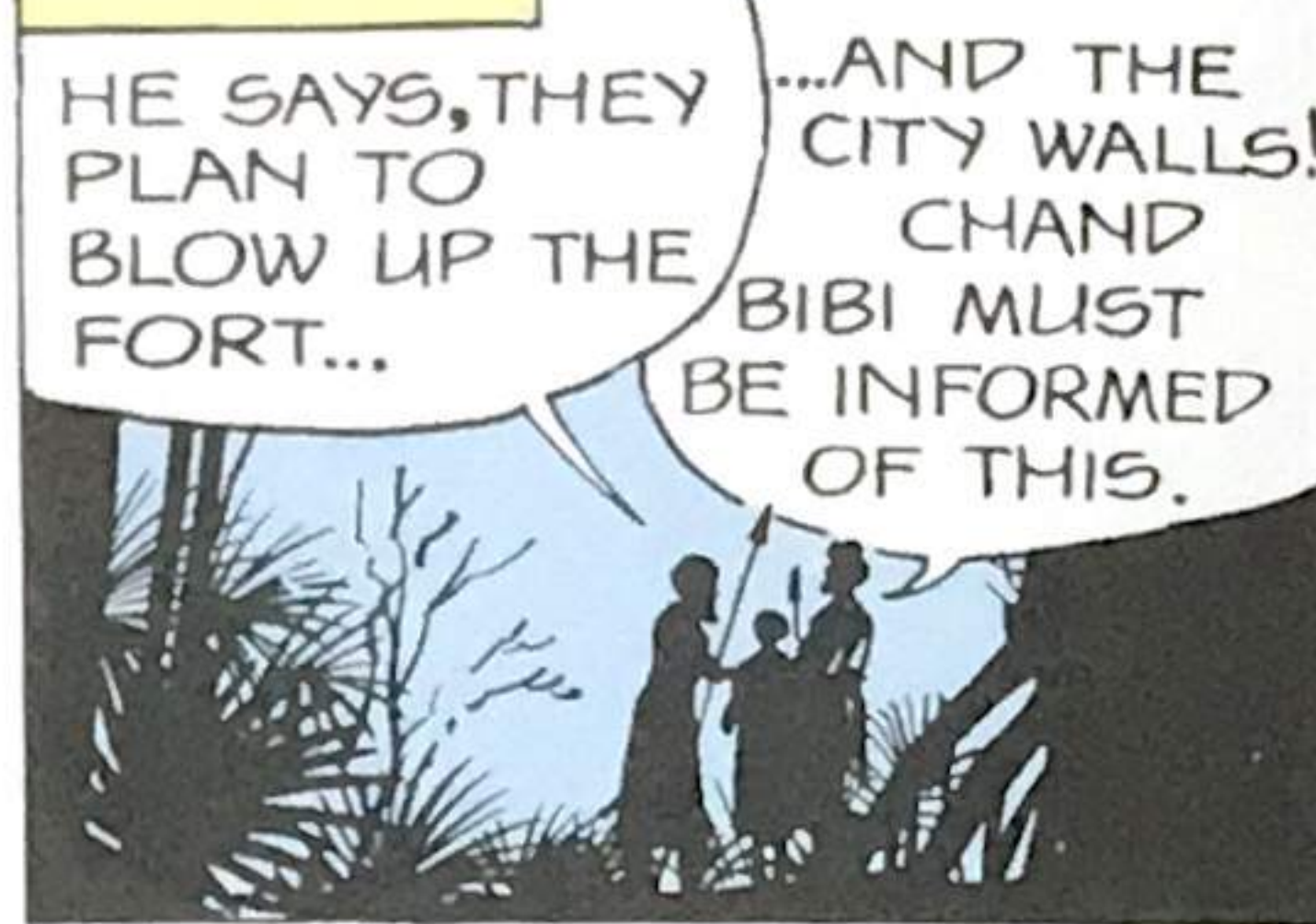
THE MUGHALS BUILT FIVE MINES LEADING UP TO THE FORT AND FILLED THEM WITH GUNPOWDER.

WHEN THIS MINE EXPLODES, THE FORT WILL BE BLOWN TO BITS! AND THESE OTHERS WILL BLOW UP THE WALL IN MINUTES.

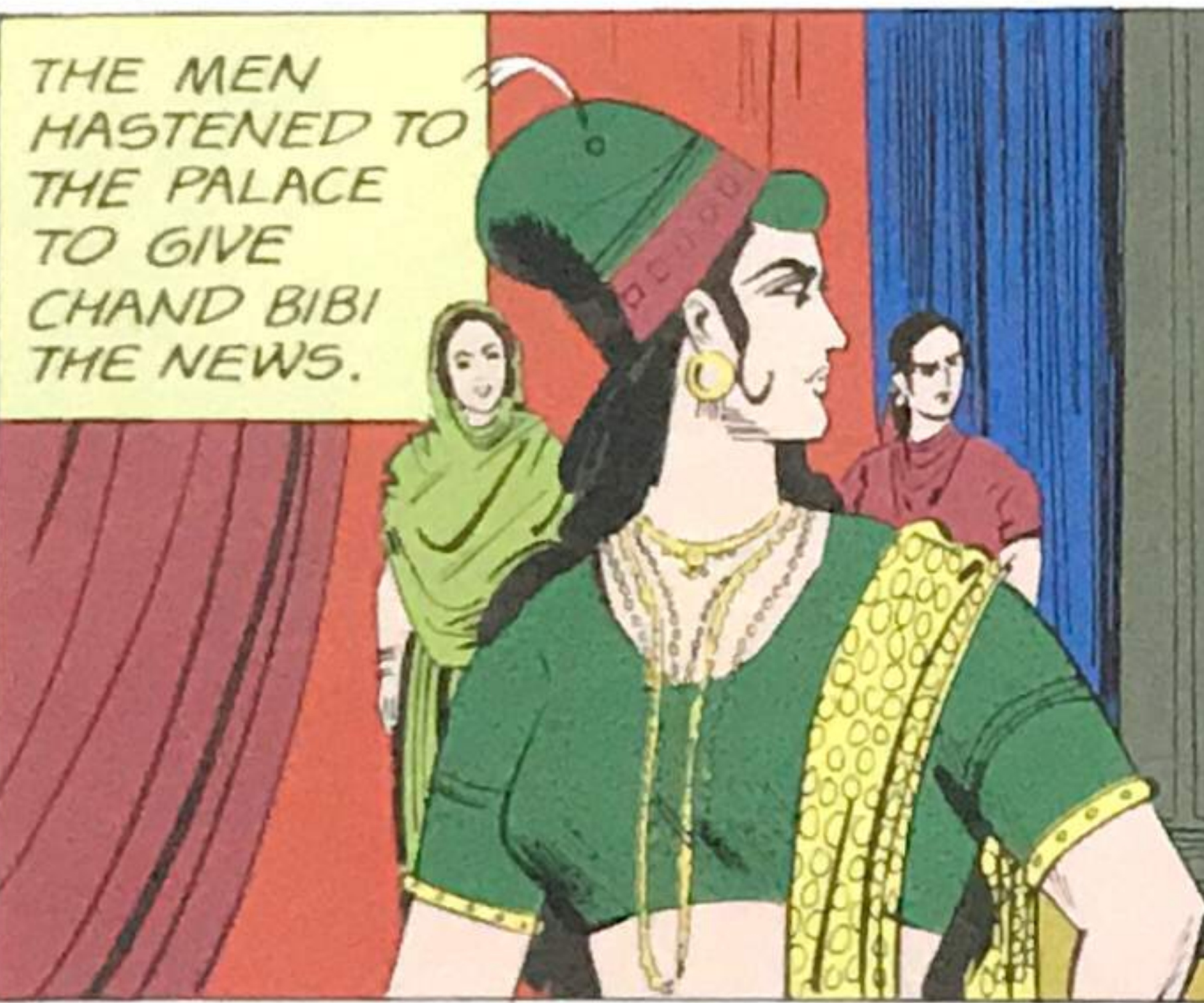


LUCKILY CHAND BIBI'S SPIES WERE ON THE ALERT AND REPORTED THE MATTER TO HER SOLDIERS.

HE SAYS, THEY PLAN TO BLOW UP THE FORT... AND THE CITY WALLS! CHAND BIBI MUST BE INFORMED OF THIS.



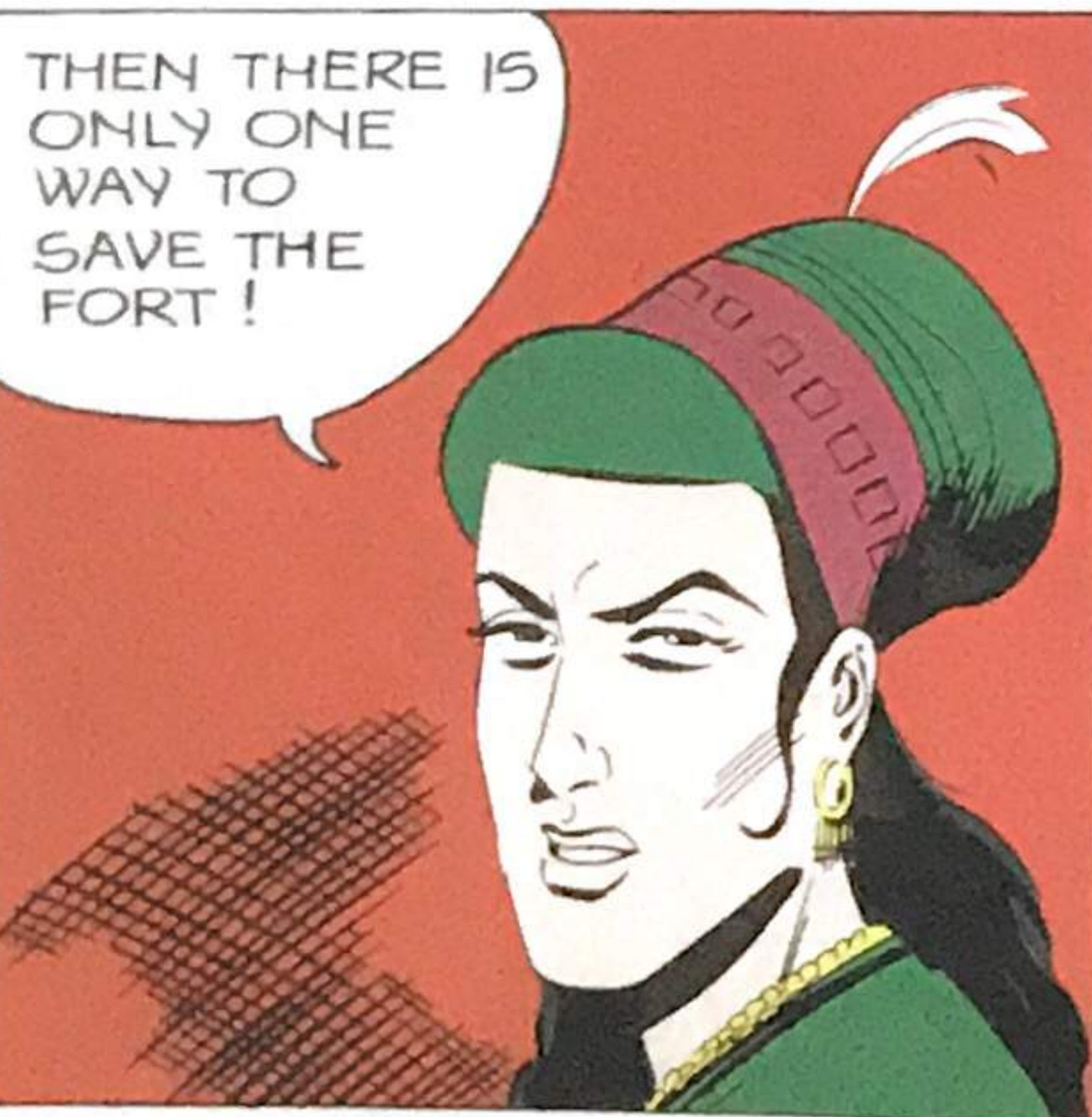
THE MEN HASTENED TO THE PALACE TO GIVE CHAND BIBI THE NEWS.



BEGUM SAHIBA, THE MUGHALS HAVE BUILT FIVE MINES LEADING TO THE FORT AND WALLS! THEY MAY EXPLODE ANY MINUTE!



THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE THE FORT!



HOW? HOW? HOW CAN WE SAVE THE FORT?



WE MUST OPEN THE MINES AND REMOVE THE GUNPOWDER...



...SO THAT WHEN THE MUGHALS DECIDE TO EXPLODE THEM, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!



BUT THEY MAY EXPLODE WHILE WE ARE REMOVING THE GUNPOWDER!



WE WILL BE KILLED!

THEY STOOD SILENT FOR A MOMENT WATCHING CHAND BIBI'S SAD FACE.



THEN AROSE A CHORUS OF VOICES.

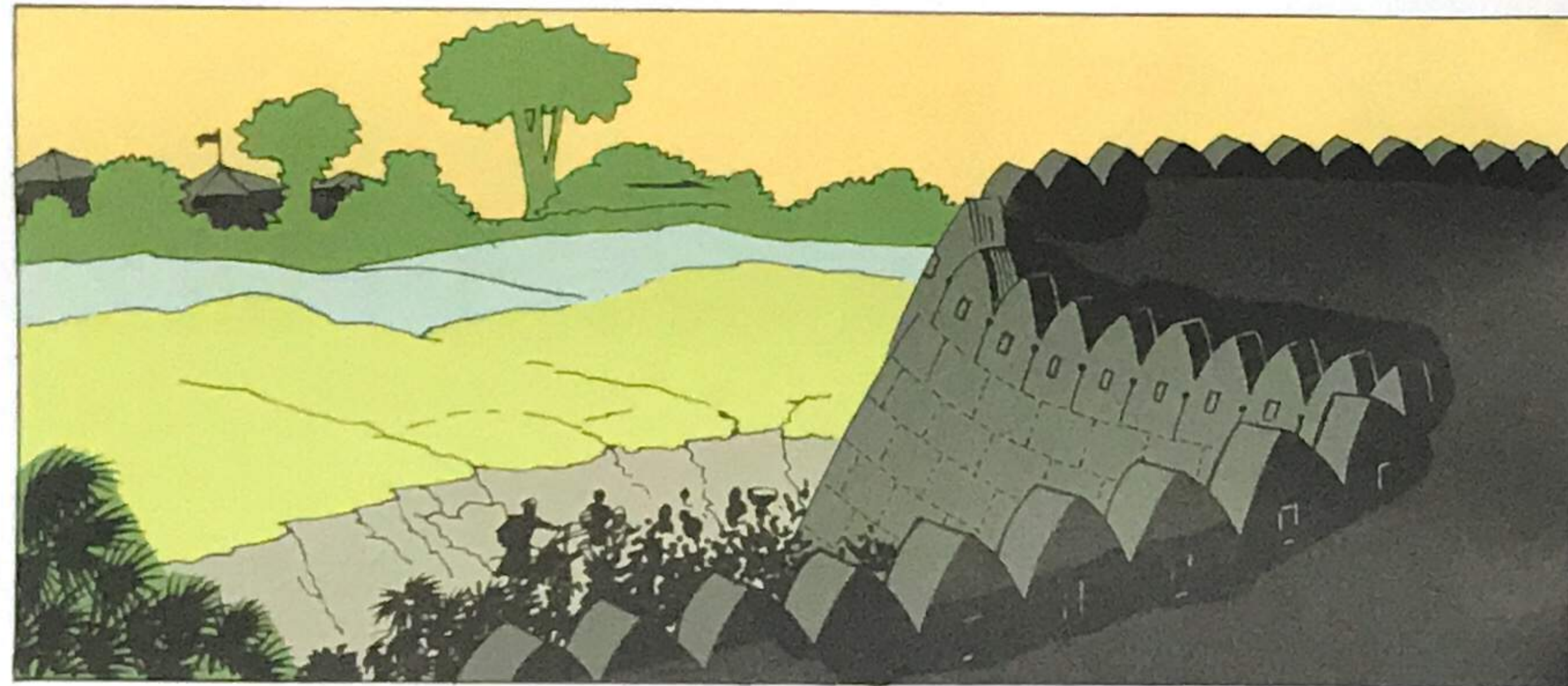
I'LL DO IT!

SO WILL I!

AND I!

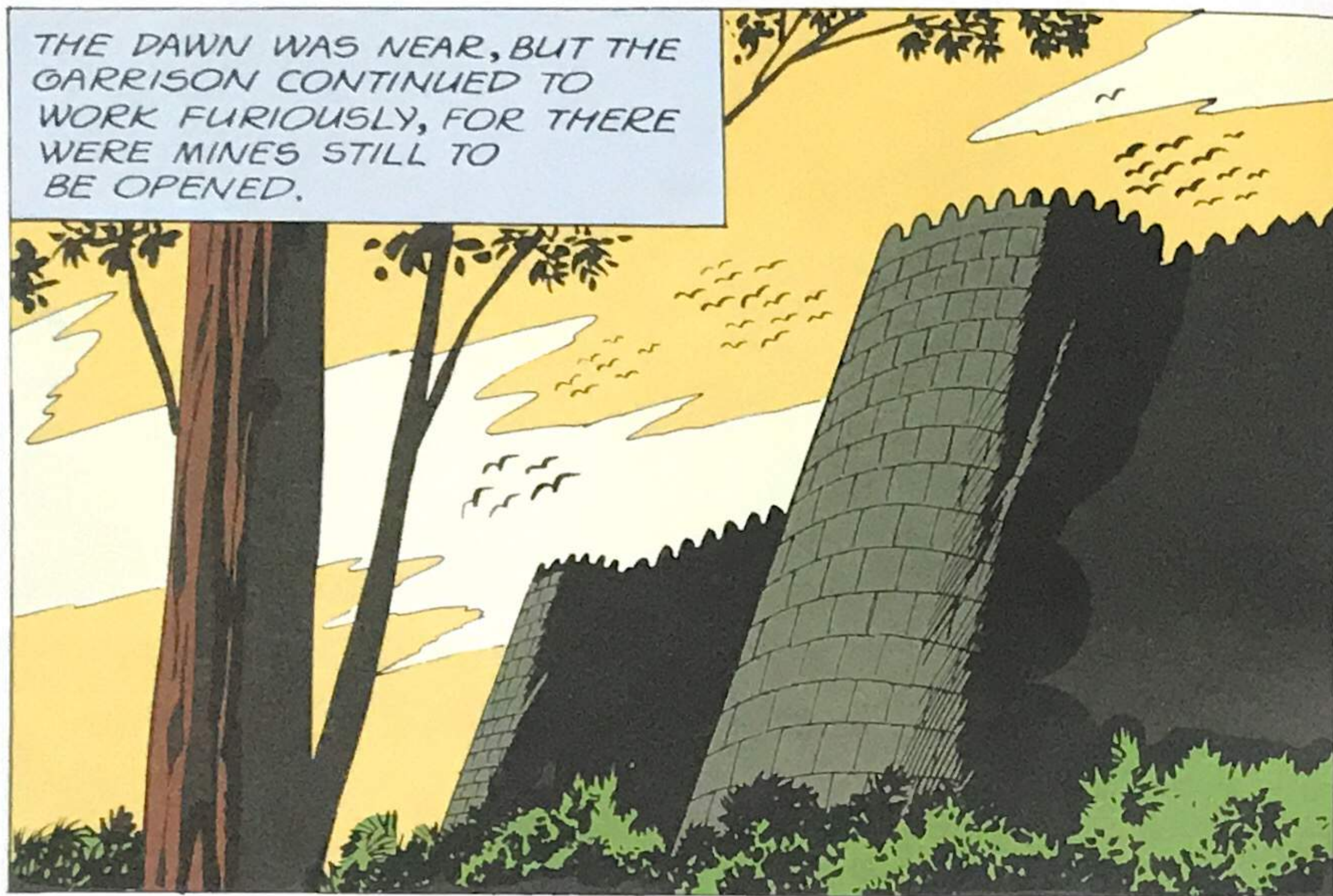








THE DAWN WAS NEAR, BUT THE GARRISON CONTINUED TO WORK FURIOUSLY, FOR THERE WERE MINES STILL TO BE OPENED.



FORTUNATELY IN THE MUGHAL CAMP, THE SENTRIES WERE ASLEEP.



THE ONLY PERSON AWAKE WAS A SMALL BOY, PRINCE MURAD'S CUP-BEARER, WHO WAS STANDING OUTSIDE, YAWNING SLEEPILY.



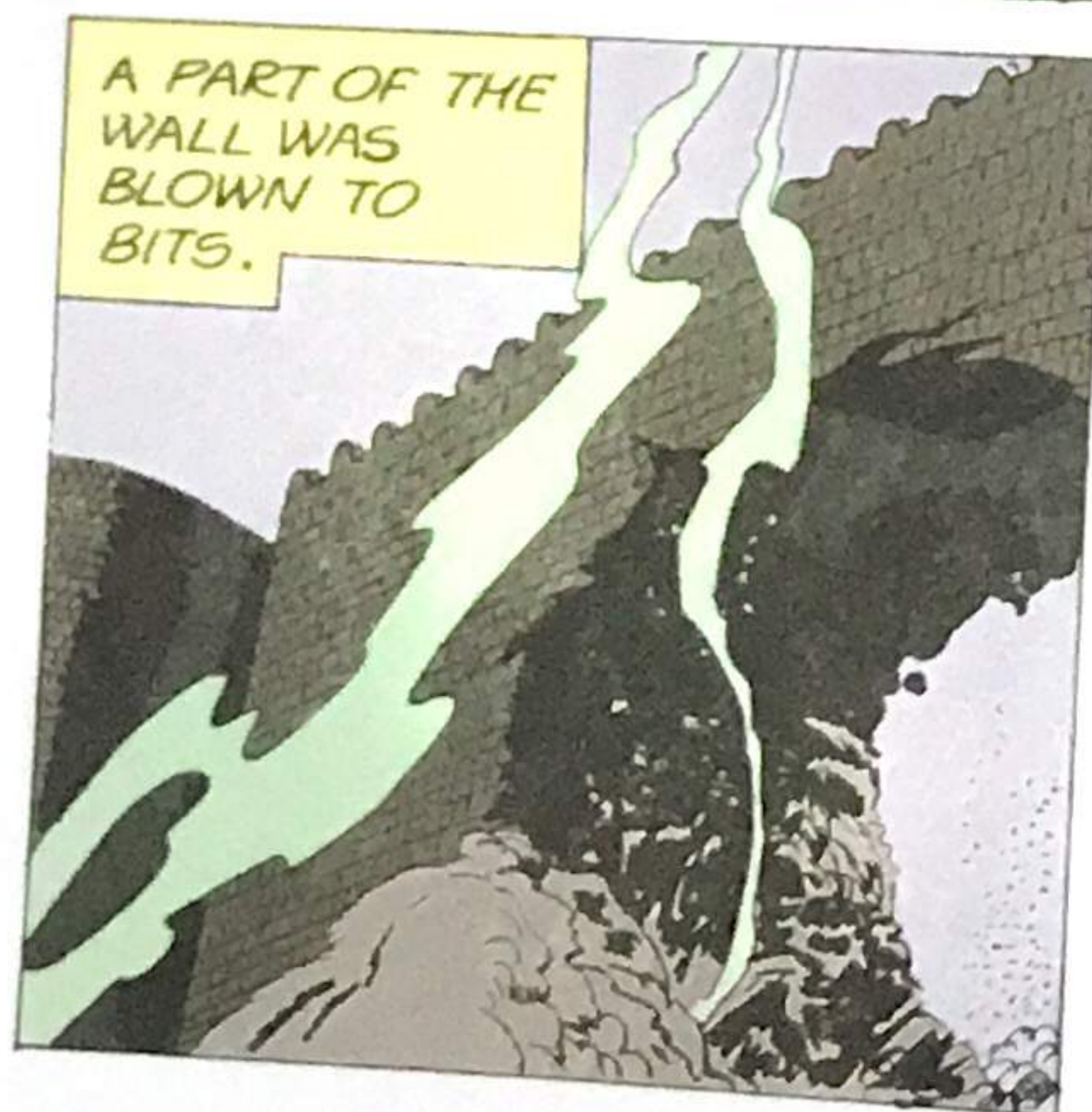
SUDDENLY, HE STOOD TRANSFIXED FOR A MOMENT, HIS MOUTH AGAPE. HE HAD SPOTTED THE MEN OPENING THE MINES.



YA, ALLAH! THEY ARE OPENING THE MINES!









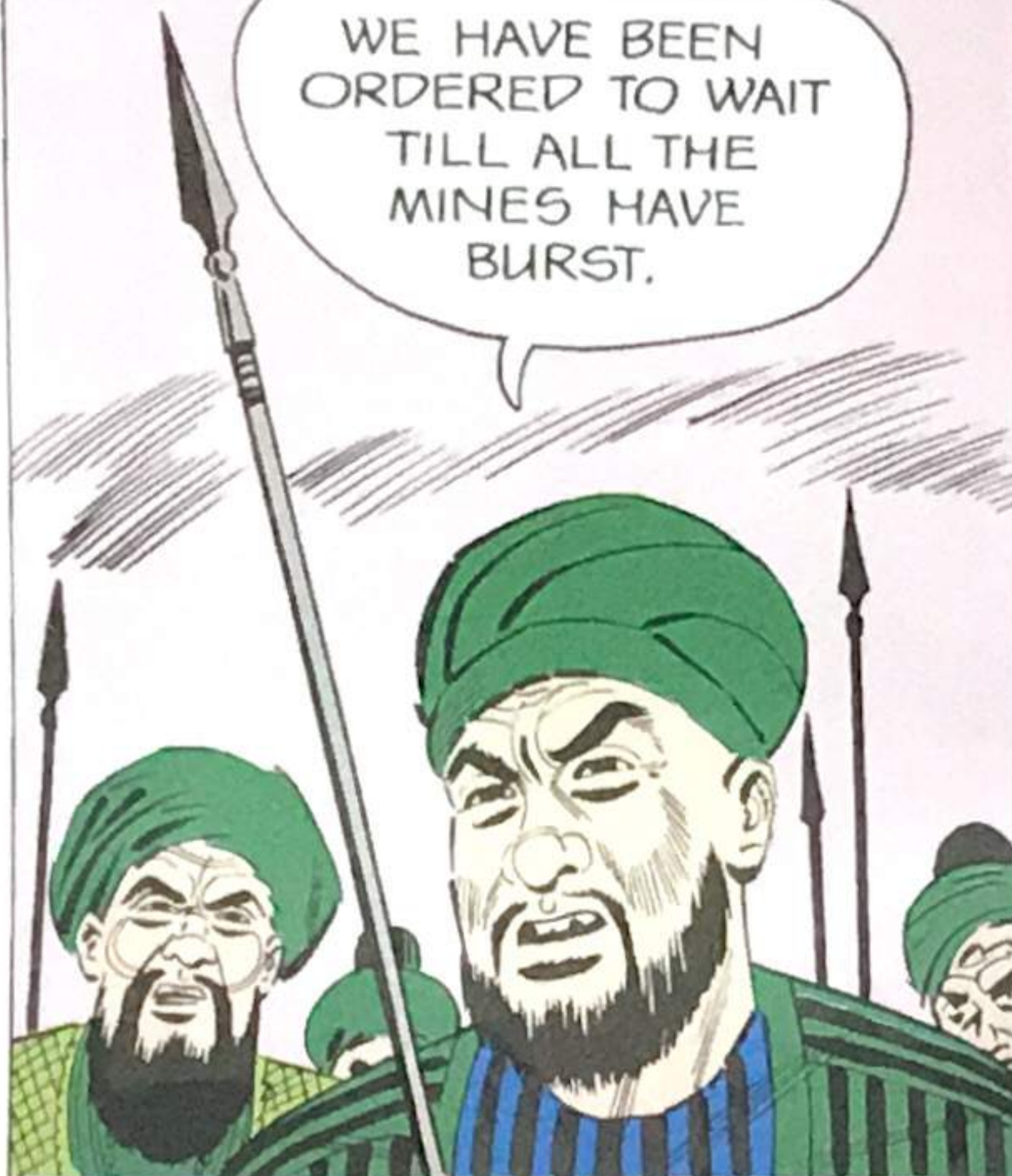
THE MUGHAL SOLDIERS WATCHED THE OPERATIONS, BUT DARED NOT COME NEAR THE WALL.

THE FIRST EXPLOSION WILL SET OFF MORE MINES...

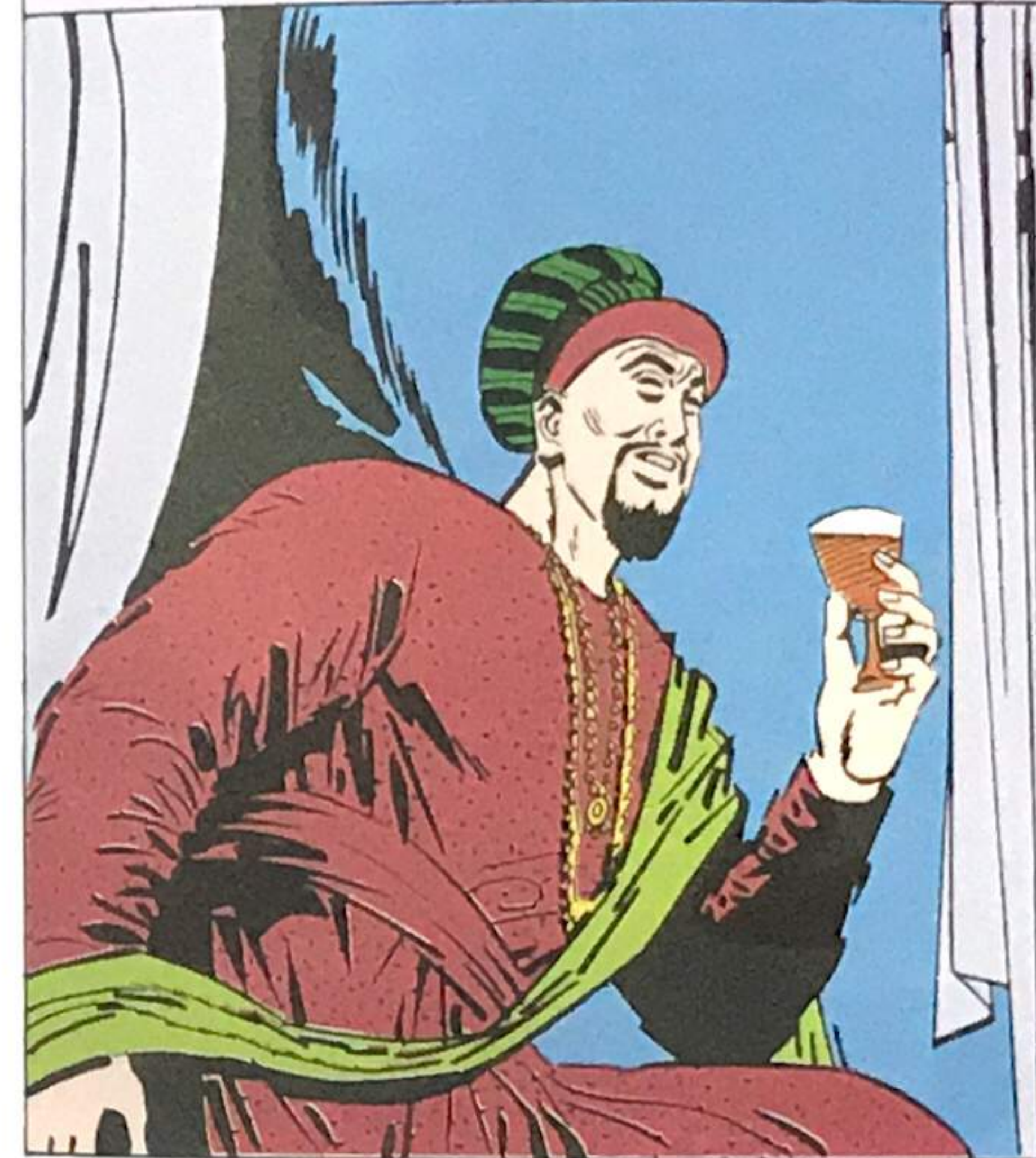


THEY COULD ONLY STAND IN READINESS WAITING FOR OTHER MINES TO EXPLODE.

WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO WAIT TILL ALL THE MINES HAVE BURST.



MEANWHILE PRINCE MURAD WAS STILL WAITING FOR THE OTHER MINES TO EXPLODE...



...WHEN TWO OF HIS MEN BURST IN WITH AGITATION.

THE BREACH IN THE WALL IS ALMOST CLOSED.

YOU MUST GIVE THE ORDER FOR BATTLE! THE TROOPS ARE BECOMING RESTLESS!

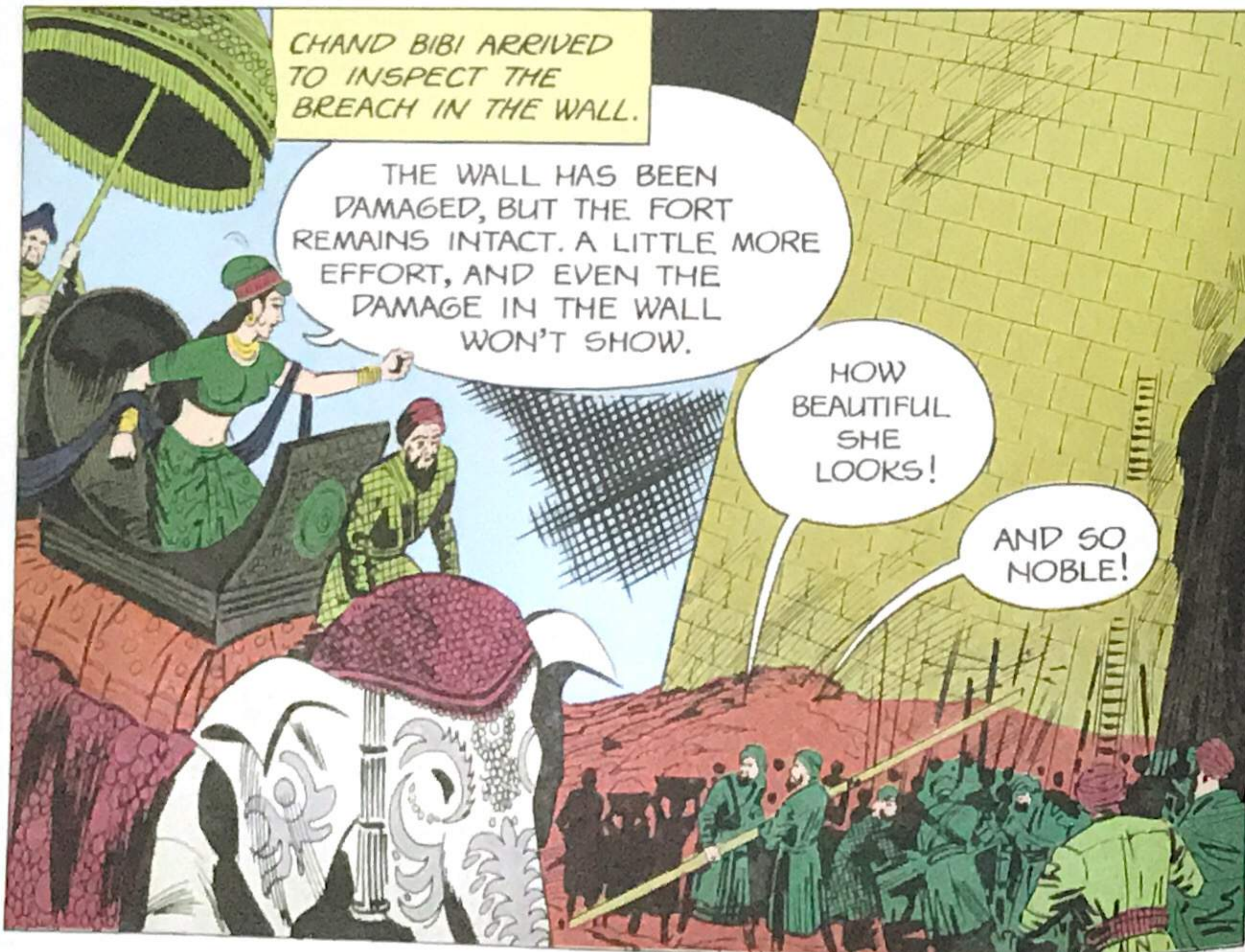


CHAND BIBI ARRIVED TO INSPECT THE BREACH IN THE WALL.

THE WALL HAS BEEN DAMAGED, BUT THE FORT REMAINS INTACT. A LITTLE MORE EFFORT, AND EVEN THE DAMAGE IN THE WALL WON'T SHOW.

HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE LOOKS!

AND SO NOBLE!



A SOUND WAS HEARD OUTSIDE.

THAT NOISE! IT SOUNDS LIKE BULLETS!

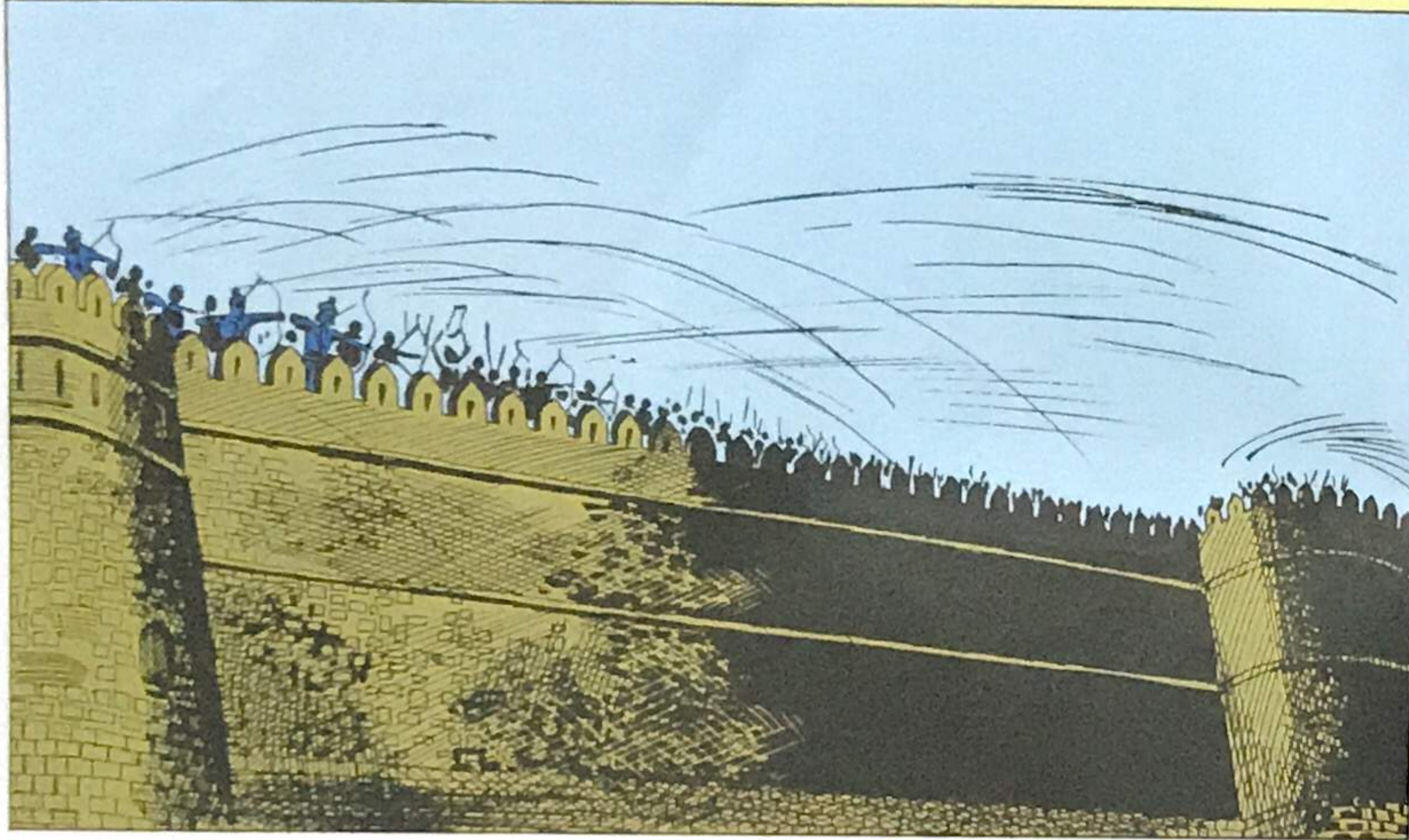


AHMEDNAGAR HAS BEGUN THE ATTACK!

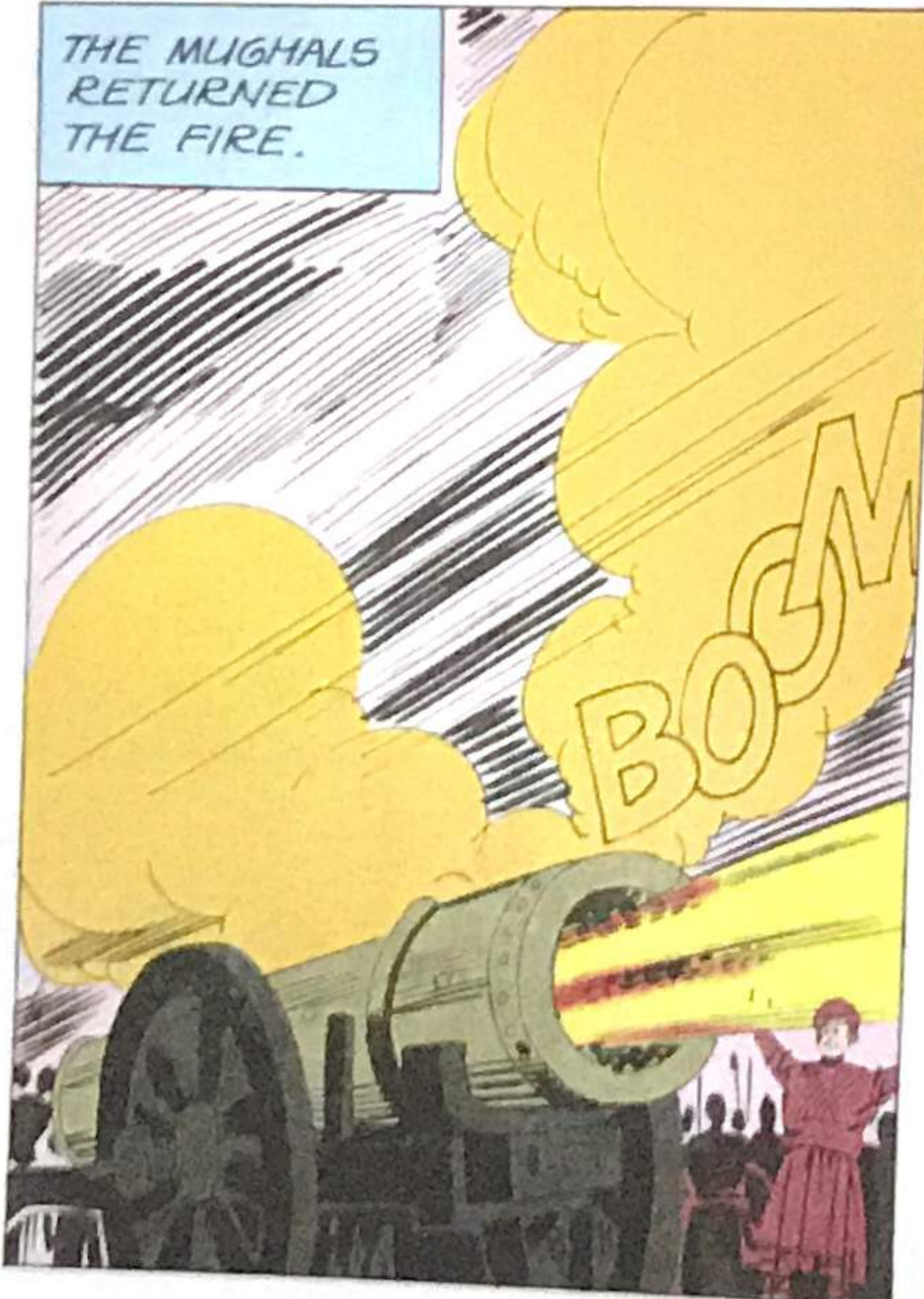




HAVING ALMOST REPAIRED THE WALL, CHAND BIBI DECIDED TO ATTACK WHILE THE MUGHALS WERE STILL OFF THEIR GUARD.



THE MUGHALS RETURNED THE FIRE.



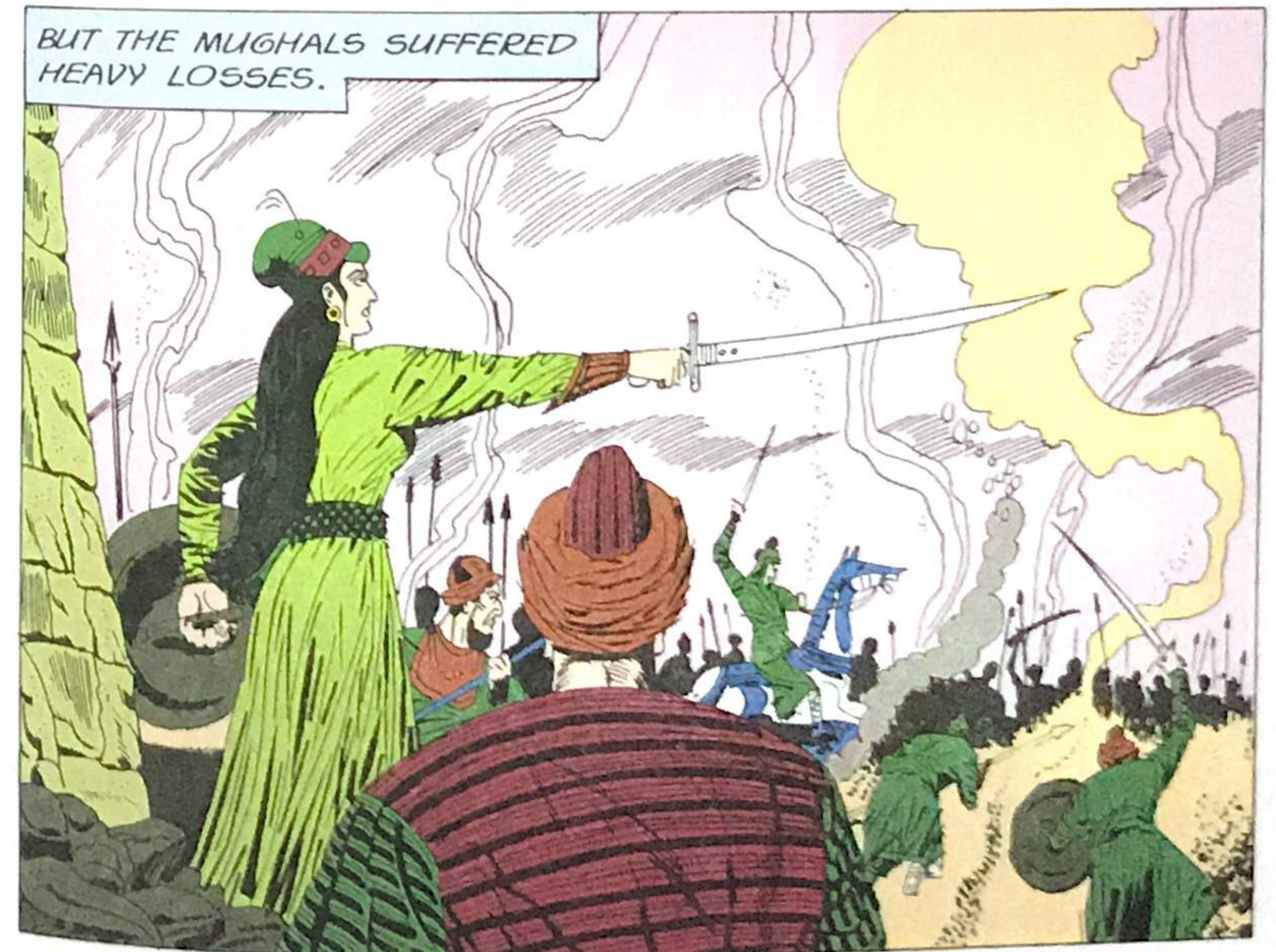
BUT THEY WERE REPULSED BY CANNON-BALLS AND BULLETS FROM THE GARRISON.



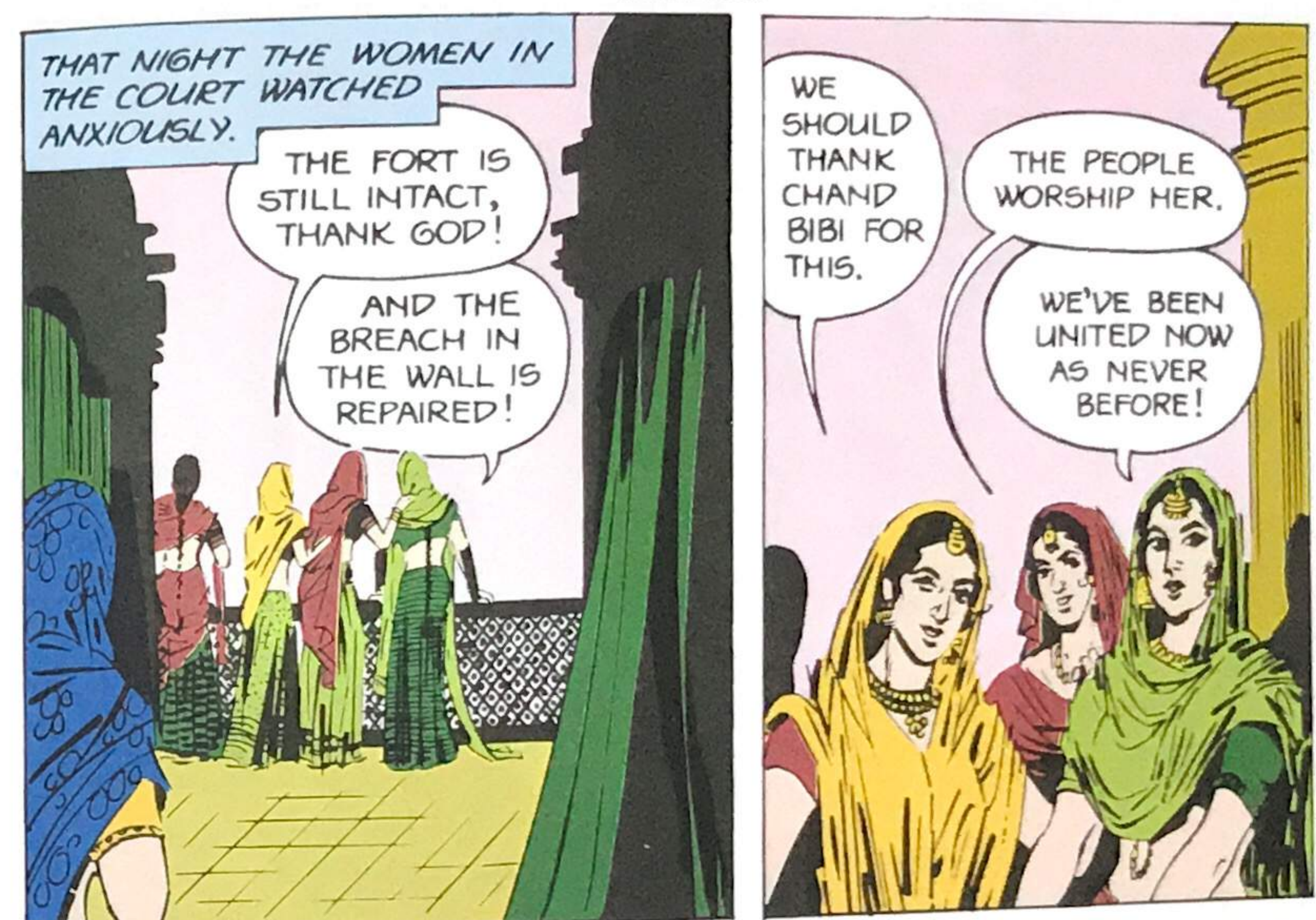
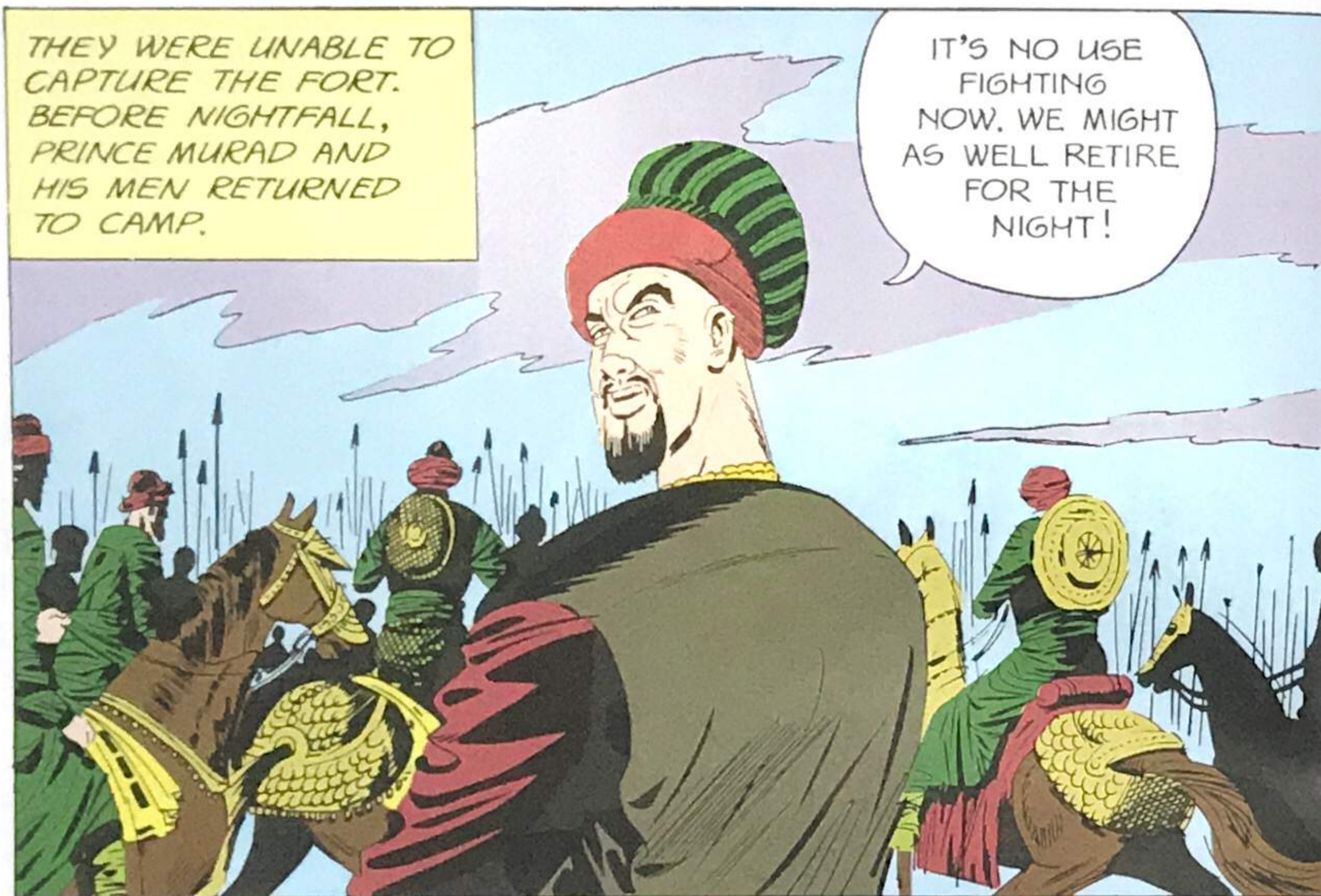
FIERCE FIGHTING ENSUED. PRINCE MURAD HIMSELF WAS PRESENT NEAR THE TRENCHES TO ENCOURAGE HIS SOLDIERS.



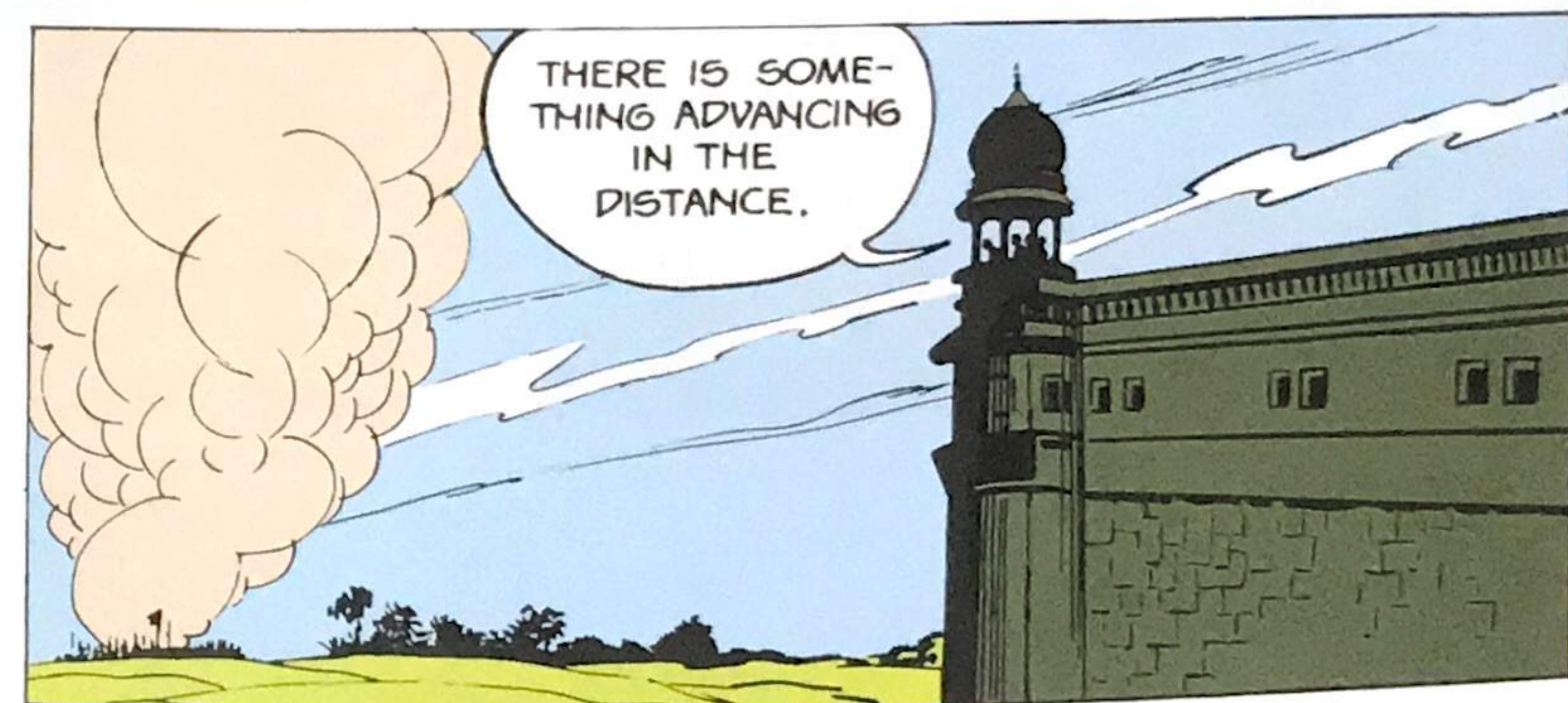
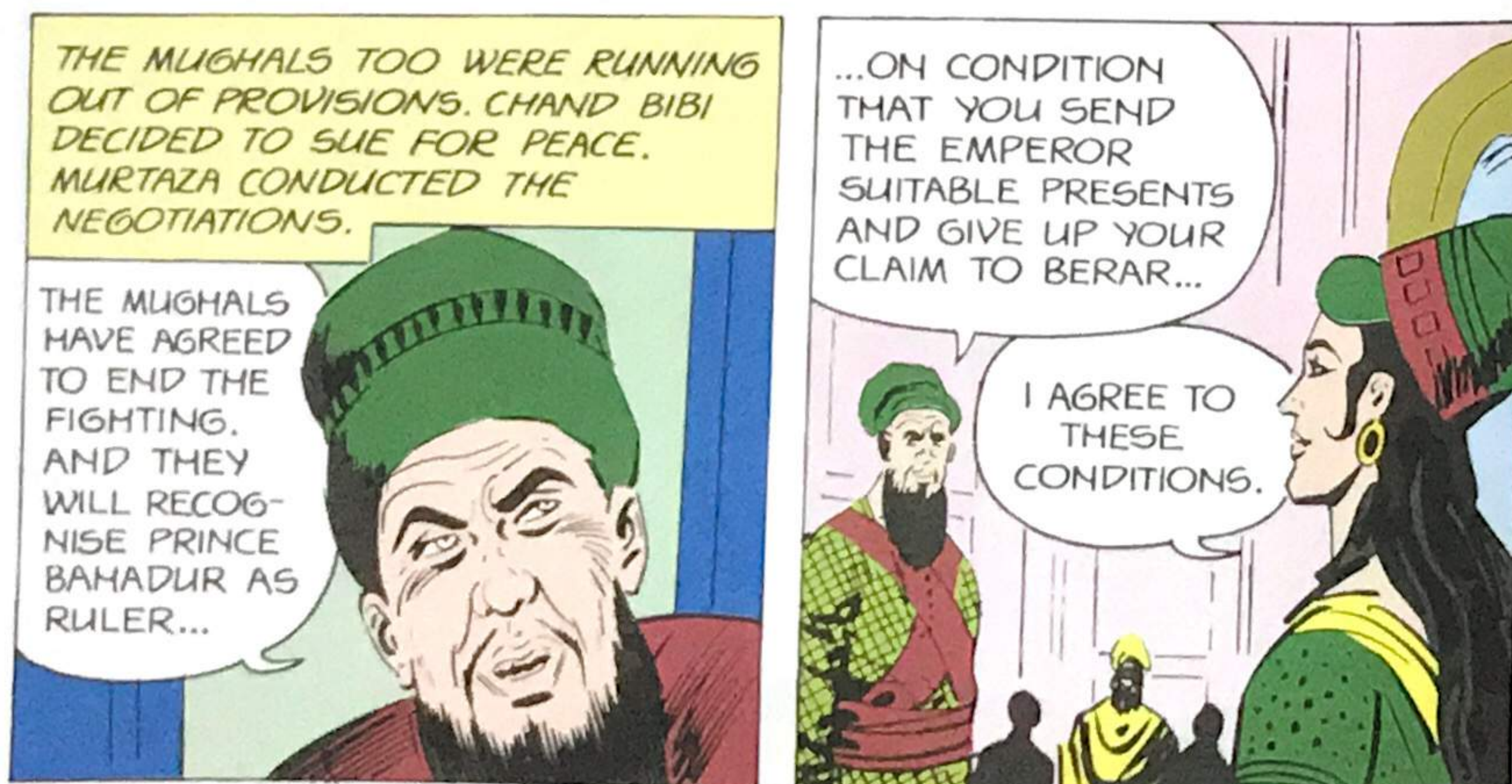
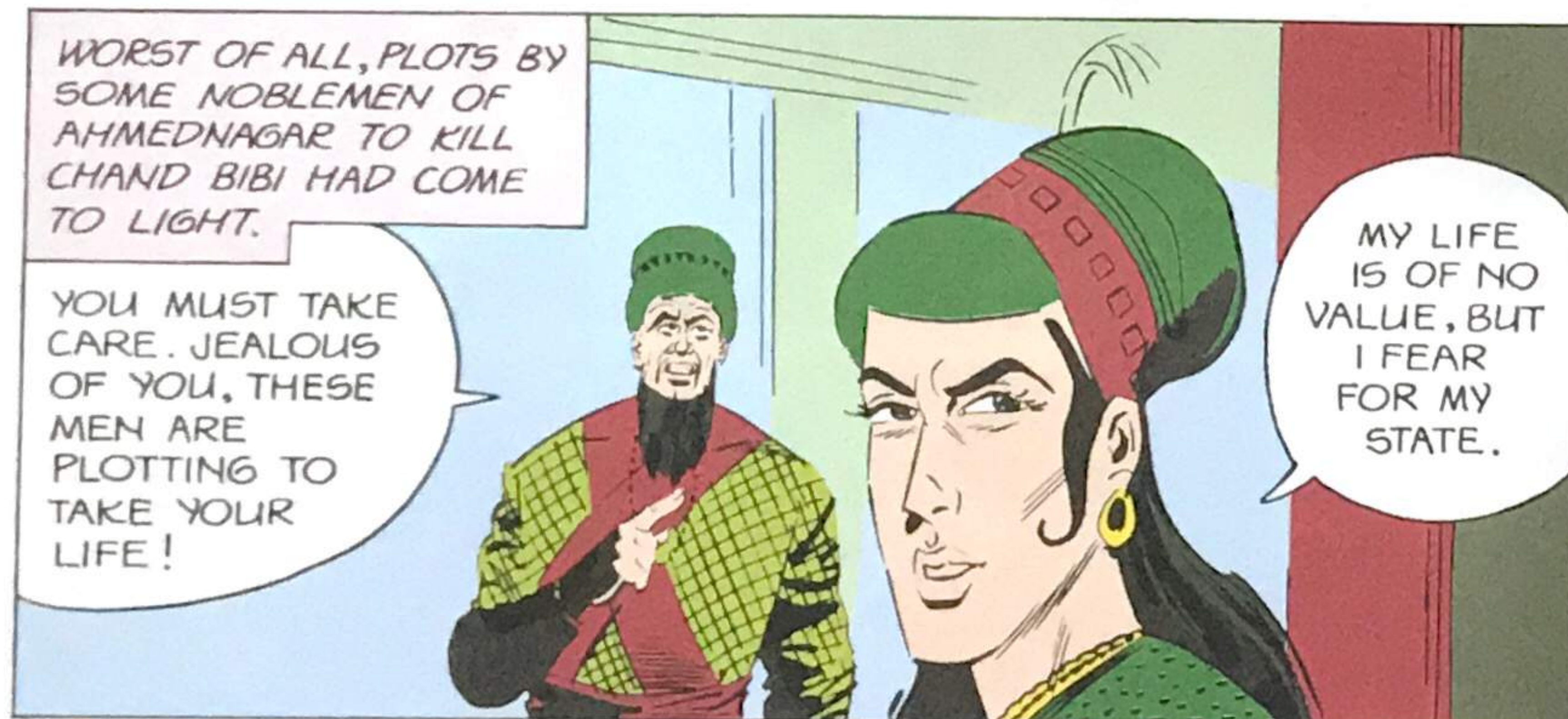
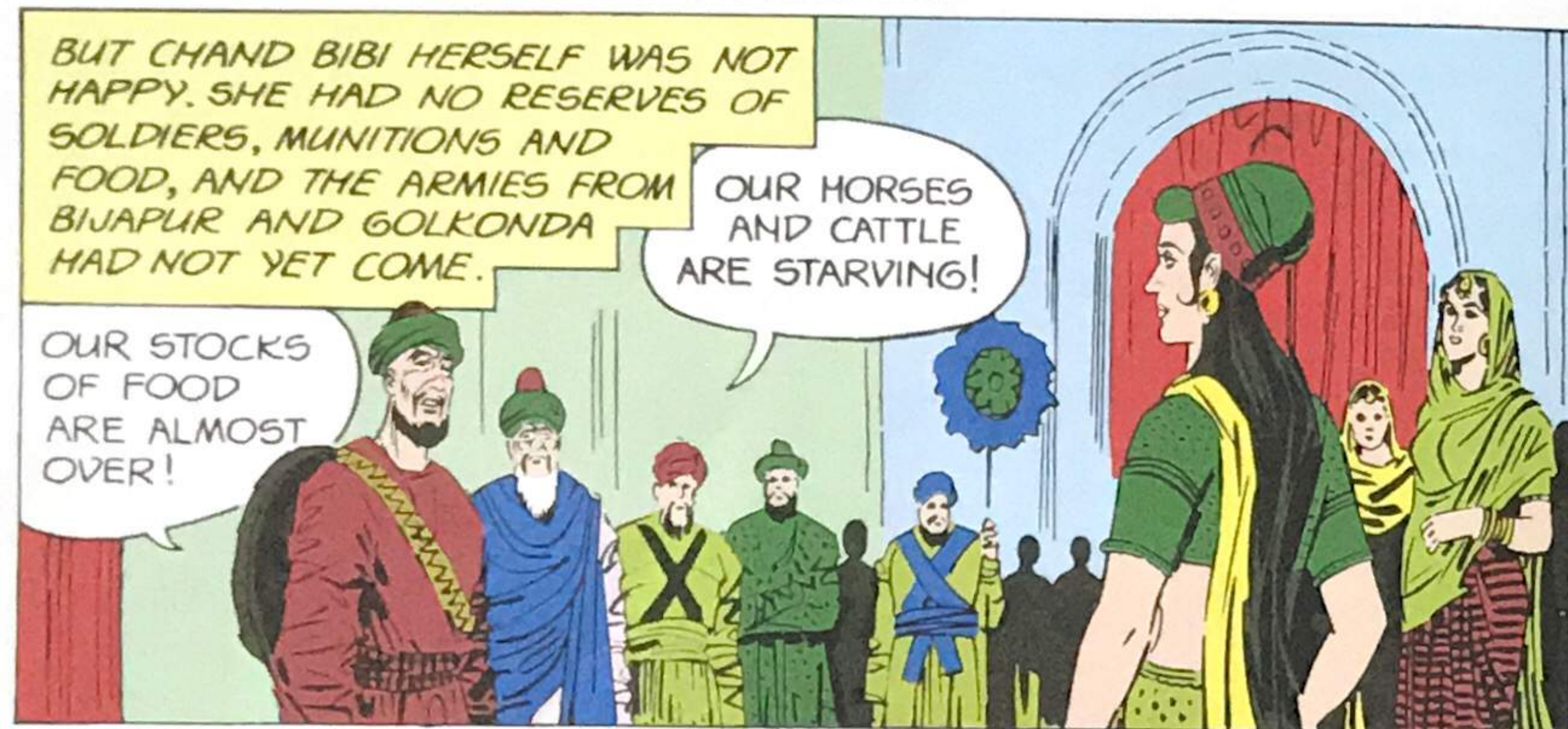
BUT THE MUGHALS SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES.















## WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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A Parrot's Body  
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The Pandava Princes  
The Pandavas In Hiding  
The Parijata Tree  
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Padmini  
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